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LD2211140888 [Editorial Report]

Israel

The Alignment has decided to immediately stop all negotiations with the Likud over forming a new government, Jerusalem radio announced 22 November.

Alignment leader Shim'on Peres stipulated earlier that he would not join any government which is not committed to an international conference, the radio noted.

Regarding IDF conduct in the territories, THE JERUSALEM POST reported that the army is investigating charges that soldiers went on a "rampage" in the Qalandiyah refugee camp after a bus they were riding in was stoned the night of 20 November.

Local residents alleged that soldiers burst into homes, beat occupants, and destroyed property.

Lebanon

A 21 November car bomb attack on a motorcade conveying Hizballah leaders will "not go unpunished," a Hizballah spokesman warned in a statement cited by the clandestine Voice of the Oppressed radio.

The explosion in the Ba'labakk area wounded three people but failed to hurt Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and other Hizballah leaders in the motorcade, the radio said.

Iraq

In a letter to the justice minister broadcast by Baghdad radio, President Saddam Husayn urged the judiciary to issue a "just verdict based on the law" in the case of his son 'Udayy, who is in jail after killing a man in a quarrel on 18 October.

The Iraqi leader stressed that "everyone is treated equally" under the system of justice, which "exempts no case or person, including the offspring of Saddam Husayn himself."

Citing the evidence of those who witnessed the killing, the Iraqi leader said it was an accidental death resulting from a blow delivered by his son to a man who had been disturbing the peace by firing weapons during the night.

'Udayy hit the man with a stick to "teach him a lesson," inadvertently striking his head.

He later tried to commit suicide after learning that he had killed the man, but his life was saved by hospital treatment.

Saddam Husayn added that his son also made two unsuccessful suicide attempts in jail, stressing that 'Udayy was thereby expressing regret over the harm he has done.

Iran

Expulsion of Turks—Two Turkish diplomats have been asked to leave Iran within 3 days, IRNA announced 22 November, noting that this action is in retaliation for the expulsion of two Iranian diplomats from Turkey.

Policy on Oil, Saudis—Iran will not oppose an increase in Iraq's oil production quota as long as the difference in the two countries' quotas is maintained, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh stated in remarks cited by IRNA.

Speaking to reporters after the first session of an OPEC ministerial conference in Vienna, Aqazadeh noted Iran is pressing for a higher output quota and contended Iran can expand its production capacity to over four million barrels per day in 1989.

A TEHRAN TIMES editorial cited by IRNA acknowledged that the disturbances in Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia have undermined OPEC, adding that an improvement in these ties is therefore dictated by necessity.

The paper also carried an interview with Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in which he affirmed Iran's willingness to hold direct negotiations with Saudi Arabia if the latter takes "further positive steps," IRNA noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

PLO-Egypt—After meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told journalists he briefed the Egyptian leader on details of the PNC session and that they discussed future moves to promote the peace process, MENA reported.

'Arafat also disclosed he has agreed on a date for talks with Jordan's King Husayn, indicating Mubarak will also participate.

King Husayn's recent remarks to CBS television were lauded by 'Arafat as "splendid and positive," MENA noted.

Jordan-Syria—King Husayn arrived in Damascus 22 November and began talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio reported.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan has informed the Pakistani authorities that an Afghan aircraft shot down over Pakistan 19 November was a civilian airliner that deviated from its route and requested help from the nearest airport, Kabul radio reported.

The Pakistanis paid no attention to the pilot's requests for help and shot the plane down with SAM's, killing all 27 people on board, the radio said.

Afghanistan strongly condemns the downing of the plane and declares that responsibility for the "grave consequences of this criminal act" will rest with Pakistan.

Pakistan responded with a protest to Afghanistan over the killing of several Pakistani civilians by Afghan shelling 13 November, according to Islamabad radio.

Pakistan

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan reaffirmed his commitment to a smooth transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people, Islamabad radio reported.

The justice minister stressed there will be no delay in this process, but said the president cannot bypass the constitutional procedure, which includes the elections to womens' seats when the National Assembly is convened 5 December.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Democratic Alliance announced its determination to use "all available means" to resist the appointment of a woman as prime minister, AFP noted.

Sudan

The SPLA denied responsibility for the 17 November attack on a plane carrying the defense minister, asserting that Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's claims in this regard are a "malicious attempt" to cast doubt on the SPLA's sincerity in its quest for peace.

The SPLA statement, carried by the rebel movement's clandestine radio, contended that the missile attack at Waw was an "inside job" by elements of Al-Mahdi's Ummah Party and "religious bigots" of the National Islamic Front who oppose the peace agreement between the SPLA and the Democratic Unionist Party.

On the government side, Omdurman National Unity radio acknowledged that the attack was not ordered by SPLA headquarters but blamed dissident elements within the SPLA.

Soviet Visitors in Algeria, PDRY

Soviet Chief of Staff Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev was received by President Chadli Bendjedid in Algiers 21 November, TASS reported, noting that they discussed "issues of mutual interest."

Akhromeyev also held talks with the Algerian chief of staff on ways to develop bilateral military cooperation, the agency added.

A Soviet delegation arrived in Aden the same day to examine the development of the PDRY petroleum industry, Aden radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

MENA Reports 'Arafat To Receive U.S. Visa

NC2211103188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1028 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Tunis, 22 Nov (MENA)—The U.S. Embassy in Tunis has informed the PLO that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will get a visa to enter New York on Saturday.

This was stated by 'Arafat's adviser, 'Imad Shakkur, to the MENA correspondent in Tunis.

'Imad Shakkur said the U.S. Embassy in Tunis has informed the PLO of the U.S. Administration's approval to give 'Arafat an entry visa to New York to attend the UN General Assembly meetings, which will discuss developments in the Palestinian issue in light of the decisions adopted by the PNC during its meeting in Algiers during 12-15 November.

Shakkur said that in his speech before the UN General Assembly on 29 November or 1 December, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat intends to demand that the occupied territories be placed under UN custodianship for a transitional period during which the Palestinian people there will take part in a referendum on self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

The PNC on 15 November proclaimed a Palestinian state on the basis of the 1947 UN General Assembly Resolution No 181, calling for the establishment of two states, one Palestinian and one Jewish.

Hurani on USSR Statement on Palestinian State

NC1811195088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has praised the Soviet Union's stand today in which it announced its recognition of the Palestinian state.

He said: We view this position as a recognition of the Palestinian state, which has been apparent in the Soviet Union's political moves and its contacts with the United States for the convening of an interantional conference.

Palestinian Dissident Calls New State 'Illusion'

NC1811204188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], leader of the Fatah Movement-the Provisional Command, has called for formation of a new Palestinian command to replace the PLO.

Speaking in Mar Ilyas camp in Beirut, Abu Musa said the Palestinian state proclaimed by the PNC is no more than an illusion whose only function is to liquidate the uprising.

OPEC Affairs

Reportage on Vienna OPEC Conference

Iran's Aqazadeh on Talks

LD1911065288 Tehran IRNA in English 0611 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Vienna, Nov. 19, IRNA—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Friday expressed hope that the current OPEC meet here would bear fruit.

He said, however, that as long as the Iraqi Government insists on a production quota equal with Iran he would be unable to comment on any other proposals by OPEC Secretary General Subroto. (One such proposal allots Iran between 350,000 to 700,000 bpd.)

OPEC committees are meeting here to decide on the total production ceiling by the 13-member organization as well as production quota of each member state. Iraq insists on equal production quota with Iran.

Secretary General of OPEC Dr Subroto said Friday that talks continue in a good atmosphere, but cautioned against innocent optimism in the face of the situation.

Iranian Oil Minister Aqazadeh on Friday met separately with oil ministers of Kuwait, Venezuela and Nigeria.

The Iranian minister said that the OPEC talks may last for ten days.

The organization is to have its ministerial meeting here Monday.

Lukman Urges 'Bold New Strategy'

LD2111121488 Vienna OPECNA in English 1137 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Vienna, 21 Nov. 88 (OPECNA)—OPEC President Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman today called on the 84th conference of the organization, opening today, to map out "a bold new strategy for the future imbued with the realism of the past 28 years."

He admitted that it would not be an easy task as the problems facing OPEC were "formidable", but added "we all shall be required to make concessions".

In an opening address to the conference, Lukman said "the most pressing issues" was reaching an agreement which was signed by all the 13 OPEC members and which enjoyed their "wholehearted commitment".

Pointing out that oil prices were "hovering" between five and six dollars per barrel below OPEC's target level, he warned that "if we do not reach an accord...we may see a further serious erosion of these prices".

Lukman told the OPEC ministers that it might be necessary "to take one step back from our deep-seated principles and beliefs, in order to take two steps forward at a later date".

"We must be guided by the fact that...we are better equipped to cope with the future development of the international oil industry from within OPEC" than from without.

"If we accept this, then we must also acknowledge the fact that we can best function as a purposeful, effective organization if we bury our differences, however deep-rooted they may be, and present a united front to the world," he added.

He believed that there was a consensus among OPEC countries that they should reassess some of the basic issues affecting the organization if it was to thrive in the future, instead of limping from crisis to crisis as in the 1960s.

"We must revitalize our organization and rekindle the flame that illuminated our path in our pioneering days, so that we can prepare the ground for the well-being and prosperity of our future generations," he said.

The president said the problems facing OPEC were "formidable" but not "insuperable".

"I do not believe there is a single member country-...which has not been strongly tempted to take advantage of the apparent weakness in our organization's agreement, after the shocks that our besieged economies have experienced during this (?trouble," he said.)

Lukman said realists in the industrialized countries were aware that according to the simple law of supply and demand, they could be living on borrowed time if they expected an unending flow of under-priced oil to continue to lubricate the wheels of their industries indefinitely.

"They acknowledge that, outside the centrally planned economies, OPEC possesses the most of the world's oil reserves, 83.3 percent in 1987, and yet accounts for only half this percentage in world production, 42.9 percent last year," he said.

Lukman Reelected President

LD2111133188 Vienna OPECNA in English 1318 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Vienna, 21 Nov. 88 (OPECNA)—OPEC oil and energy ministers have adjourned their 84th ordinary conference meeting until Wednesday when they will meet in closed session.

The ministers approved the OPEC budget for 1989 and also received a number of reports prepared by the Secretariat.

The morning session was opened by OPEC President Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, who was later unanimously re-elected president. [passage omitted]

Iran Seeks Higher Quota

LD2211065988 Tehran IRNA in English 0641 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Vienna, Nov. 22, IRNA—Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said Monday that Iran presses for a higher production quota within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Aqazadeh here for the 84th OPEC ministerial session, opened Monday made the remark after a meeting with his Algerian counterpart, Sadek Boussena but declined to comment on the quota that Iran is after.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting he made it clear that traditionally Iran has had a production quota more than that of Iraq. He stressed this must be maintained.

Iran will not oppose any increase in Iraq's production quota granted that the difference between the two countries quotas is maintained, he told reporters.

He said any prediction on outcome of the OPEC session will be premature and added Iran would not be responsible for the failure of the conference and that the blame should be put on other OPEC members.

Aqazadeh further told reporters that he had proposed a meeting with oil ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq but so far there was no reply.

He added there was no need for a face-to-face meeting and direct talks with the Iraqi oil minister in this session.

On Iran's current oil production he said it was a bit over three million barrels per day and the present production capacity of 3.3 million barrels per day will be raised to 3.5 in the next few months, and to over four million barrels next year.

Egypt

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Visits, Meets Leaders

NC2111133988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1336 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Baghdad aboard a private plane.

He was received on arrival by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the foreign ministry and head of the president's office for political affairs. Senior officials at the PLO office in Cairo were also on hand to receive him.

Upon his arrival at Cairo airport, Yasir 'Arafat expressed his great pleasure with being in Egypt, particularly in the wake of the 19th PNC session which convened in Algiers, and which was the session of the uprising, the session of martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

He disclosed that he will brief President Husni Mubarak on the details of the PNC session's proceedings so that a common concept of effective action can be arrived at to speed up the convocation of an international conference for establishing a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East that will take into consideration the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their national rights.

The Palestinian leader said that his current Arab tour has included stops in the Arab Maghreb countries, Iraq, and, today, Egypt, to hold talks with President Husni Mubarak.

Referring to the statement which Jordan's King Husayn made to the CBS television network yesterday, 'Arafat praised it as splendid and positive.

Responding to a question on the way in which doubts were cast with regard to Egypt's stand on the declaration of the Palestinian state, 'Arafat quoted the well-known Egyptian popular saying: "They found no fault with the rose; they said it is red."

Talks Open in Cairo

NC2111175888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—The talks between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat opened here this evening. 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo earlier today, will brief President Mubarak during the talks on the outcome of the PNC meeting, which were held in Algiers from 12 to 15 November.

Following the 90-minute closed session between President Mubarak and Chairman 'Arafat, the two leaders were joined by the members of the Egyptian and Palestinian delegations.

The Egyptian delegation to the talks includes Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr Ahmad Salamah, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Dr Mustafa al-Fiqi, the president's secretary for information.

The Palestinian delegation includes PNC speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih; PLO Executive Committee members Jamal al-Surani, Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Abdallah Hurani, Bishop Elie Khuri, and Mahmud Darwish; 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan; and Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo.

Leaders Give News Conference

NC2111210788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a news conference at the conclusion of their talks this evening. In his remarks to newsmen, President Mubarak affirmed the need to work seriously for the establishment of peace in the Middle East in the wake of the PNC's declaration of the Palestinian state and its acceptance of Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338. President Mubarak said that public opinion must support and encourage this positive step.

Asked whether something tantamount to a joint Egyptian-Palestinian move was achieved at today's meeting, 'Arafat said: There is no doubt that, just as there were detailed discussions before the PNC meeting in Algiers, as well as during the Al-'Aqabah and Baghdad meetings, I thought it my duty, after the PNC meeting in Algiers, to come here and brief his excellency the president—who embraces the Palestinian cause within his heart and regards it not just as an Arab cause but also primarily as an Egyptian cause—on the details of what transpired at the Algiers meetings.

We also discussed what strong future steps should be taken to propel the peace process forward, including the convening, as soon as possible, of an international peace conference to solve the Middle East crisis.

Asked whether he remains optimistic about the convening of an international conference following the statements that have been made in Israel and the United States, Yasir 'Arafat said: I would like to reiterate that

this effort by Egypt and by President Mubarak personally is not being undertaken through interviews and statements only, but through intensive action at the local and international levels, including the efforts to hold an international conference.

'Arafat added: I share President Mubarak's optimism that an international conference will be held soon, God willing.

Replying to a question on whether the United States has changed its position following the declaration of the Palestinian state, 'Arafat said: I regret to say no, because there is no change so far. But we must continue to undertake efforts to change this stand. We hope that some positive steps will be realized in the future.

President Mubarak interrupted at this point, saying: We cannot expect swift changes in U.S. or Israeli public opinion. Such change will not take place in 1 day or 1 night. Such a change requires time.

Asked whether he believes this will happen, President Mubarak said: I hope so. I hope there will be such a change because peace needs time. We all are working for peace.

As I have said previously, peace is very precious; hence, all the parties must make sacrifices and concessions. The Israelis must now work seriously for the sake of peace because the Israeli people also want to live in peace.

A questioner pointed out that it is being said that what was declared in Algiers was insufficient. 'Arafat replied: I would like to refer to what His Majesty King Husayn said yesterday, Sunday, in his interview with one of the U.S. television networks. He said that the PLO had done all that it had to do, and the other side must now respond to what the PLO has offered.

Asked whether he will visit Jordan to meet with King Husayn, 'Arafat said: This is a very important matter. We were talking to King Husayn a short while ago.

President Mubarak spoke to his majesty first, and then I also had the honor of talking to King Husayn on the telephone. We agreed on some dates for a meeting after his majesty's tour of various countries.

President Mubarak emphasized that Yasir 'Arafat will go to Jordan, saying: 'Arafat will be going to Amman to avoid a misunderstanding. President Mubarak said that King Husayn will make two short trips in the next few days and that had it not been for these, Brother 'Arafat would go to Jordan now to avoid any misunderstanding or problems.

President Mubarak reaffirmed that there are no problems between the PLO and Jordan. He declared: There will be a meeting. 'Arafat has asked for this meeting. Its date will be announced later because His Majesty King Husayn will be busy in the next 3 or 4 days. In other words, there are no problems. I say this so that no one may create a problem.

Asked if he will take part in the talks between 'Arafat and King Husayn, President Mubarak stated: We are always ready to participate in any discussions. 'Arafat interrupted here to say: We will be honored if Egypt takes part in our discussions.

He referred to the talks which were held earlier in Al-'Aqabah and Baghdad, and asserted: They will be followed, God willing, by other discussions in Amman and elsewhere, and President Mubarak will participate.

Mubarak then said: I would like to say that all our Arab brothers, including His Majesty King Husayn, understand the situation, particularly after the PNC resolutions in Algiers recognizing Resolution No 242, proclaiming the establishment of the Palestinian state and defining its borders as those which existed in 1967, announcing the establishment of a confederal union with Jordan, and renouncing terrorism. 'Arafat pointed out here that it is the Cairo Declaration which emphasizes the renunciation of terrorism.

At the conclusion of the news conference, President Mubarak called on the international community to work for the advancement of the peace process through an international conference. He said: Israel must also be accurate in its statements and must realize that we also want peace, and that all the peoples of the area, including the Israeli people, want peace.

The United States must also exert the maximum effort. I am confident that efforts will be made to attain peace and to solve the problem in the future. There is now a transitional period in the United States, and a new government is being formed in Israel. Therefore, we must not expect much until there is stability in the United States and Israel.

'Abd al-Majid Views Talks

NC2211140488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that the present impetus in the international arena, which emerged after the recent PNC resolutions, is unparalleled in the history of the Palestinian question.

'Abd al-Majid further stressed the importance of the next stage, saying that all resources must be utilized to increase the impetus of the Palestinian question.

He described the discussions which he held today with the Palestinian delegation under the leadership of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as "fraternal and amicable."

'Abd al-Majid said that the next stage calls for much study, consultation, and accurate calculations.

'Abd al-Majid praised the accomplishments of the PNC in Algiers, describing them as important and historic. He hailed these positive achievements and the world support for them, pointing out that they express the seriousness of the Palestinian stand in particular, and that of the Arabs in general.

Mubarak Discusses Support for PNC Resolutions

NC1911143388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak underlined Egypt's support for the PNC resolution declaring the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. The president also declared Egypt's support for the PNC resolution denouncing terrorism and recognizing Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338.

In a speech he made today to the international seminar to protect holy places and cultural heritage in Palestine, President Mubarak said that Egypt has sought to hold an international conference in which all the parties concerned will participate to resolve this issue.

President Mubarak also stressed in his speech, which was delivered on his behalf by Awqaf Minister Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, that the recent PNC resolutions prompts optimism about achieving this important step toward solving the issue.

Following is the text of President Mubarak's speech to the seminar on holy places:

Brothers and sisters: Throughout its glorious history, Egypt has been the refuge for all rebels and the destination of opinion makers and those searching for the truly free word.

Egypt has stood with the Palestinian people in their armed struggle from the first moment. Egypt also has stood with the Palestinians in their political struggle in defense of their legitimate rights to protect their lands, freedom, and independence.

Egypt has sacrificed much and continues to do so. It is not boasting about doing so, because this is a right affirmed by duty. Palestine is a dear part of the Arab territories and has been and still is the Arabs' principal cause.

Brothers, we support the PNC resolutions declaring the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. We also support its resolution that denounces terrorism and recognizes UN Resolution Nos 242 and 338.

We have sought to hold an international conference in which all the parties concerned will participate to resolve this issue. Undoubtedly, the resolutions adopted by the PNC, which met in Algiers recently, give us cause to be optimistic about achieving this important step toward solving the problem.

Brothers and sisters, your scientific international seminar that is hosted by Cairo and embraced by the Egyptian people to protect the holy places and cultural heritage in Palestine, comes at the right time.

The concept of right is in constant need of support from science and history, so that demanding it does not become a merely hollow slogan.

Palestine's holy places are the fruit of the human spiritual heritage and a living symbol of human culture throughout the ages. It is the duty of all humanity to protect and preserve them. Any neglect of or any aggression on them is an insult to the spiritual and cultural values of all mankind.

The Arabs have understood this truth since the Islamic conquest of Palestine. Caliph 'Umar ibn al-Khattab, may God bless his soul, gave his famous pledge to respect and protect the Christian holy places because he realized that they belong to mankind's spiritual heritage, not only to Christians.

He thus manifested the Arab leaders' deep awareness of the importance and sanctity of these places. It also was a responsible understanding of and respect for the culture, civilization, and heritage of others.

The Islamic and Christian sanctuaries in Palestine were and still are part of the spiritual and cultural heritage of the people of Palestine. They cannot be viewed in isolation from this people or vice versa. The issue is not one of a place or building, but an expression of a lively historical existence interacting with time and place.

It also is an expression of an influence and reciprocal sensitivity that is impossible to ignore, transcend, or deny. This is the extraordinary importance of these sanctuaries.

Egypt, which has a deep-rooted spiritual, civilizational, and cultural heritage, realizes more than anybody else the need to preserve the human cultural heritage and the significance of protecting the sanctuaries wherever they may be, especially in Palestine, which constitutes one of the cradles of the most precious human cultures.

Egypt, which believes in a just peace and recognizes the rights of peoples, is responsibly and faithfully working for peace in Palestine—peace based on justice and mutual recognition of, respect for, and maintenance of rights; on coexistence among the peoples in our region; and on cooperation based on these principles for the creation of a better society, a stable life for all the

region's peoples, and a just and lasting peace in which rights are safeguarded, sanctuaries protected, the national and cultural identity of every people respected, extremism, intransigence, and irresponsibility repudiated, and opportunities provided for the region's peoples to build their civilization and contribute to the building of the human civilization.

We express regret and are pained by the irresponsible acts of disrespect for the sanctuaries in Palestine. We denounce these actions and the acts of suppression, oppression, and denial of the Palestinian people's rights that are practiced by the Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories. We perceive the Palestinian people's uprising as action by a people defending their freedom, dignity, and rights.

We emphasize our belief in the Palestinian people's legitimate right to determine their own fate, build their national identity, and protect their cultural heritage.

In conclusion, I again welcome you and convey to you his excellency the president's wishes for a pleasant stay and success in your work. May peace and God's blessings and mercy be upon you.

PLO's Kamal on 'State of Palestine' Mission

NC2011160688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that this afternoon he sent the text of the statement issued by the official Egyptian spokesman on Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Kamal said that this recognition by the largest Arab country is of particular political and diplomatic significance at the Arab and international levels and that it confirms the full support of the Egyptian president, government, and people for the Palestinian people, their struggle, and their great uprising in the occupied territories.

He added that this recognition is in accordance with laws and documents that affirm the Palestinian people's right to an independent state. He noted that the PLO mission has enjoyed and continues to enjoy the privileges accorded other countries in accordance with Egypt's decision on this and that the PLO mission in Cairo will automatically be under the name of the State of Palestine.

AL-AKHBAR Cited on Effect of Cairo Statement

NC2211070688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2246 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR affirms that the Egyptian statement on Cairo's explicit recognition of the independent Palestinian state, which was proclaimed by the PNC in Algiers, blocks the road before those seeking to cause trouble and cast doubts on the Egyptian position, which is known to all the Arabs and even the entire world.

It also destroys all the suspicions which the schemers have tried to raise to serve their own interests.

In its Tuesday commentary, the paper says that those who did not hesitate to try and exploit this historical moment, which has been awaited by the Arab nation, were not content with their anti-Palestinian positions.

They tried to cast heavy shadows of doubt on the value of the Palestinian decisions, so much so that by their position they support the Palestinians' enemies, who want to usurp their territory.

The paper notes in conclusion that all the Palestinian leaders have expressed their belief in the Egyptian position, as well as their dependence on Egypt's strong support for their future efforts to secure the broadest measure of international support for an independent and free Palestine.

Palestinian State Said To End 'Trusteeship'

JN2211102388 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Nov 88 p 7

["A Mere Opinion" column by Salah Muntasir: "It Became Palestinian"]

[Text] Welcome to the Palestinian state, although its proclamation has come 40 years late. This state, which was finally proclaimed in November 1988, should have been accepted by the Arabs in November 1947 with better conditions and without today's need to hold negotiations with Israel and make pleas to the United States.

We must excuse the Palestinians for what has happened. They have right from the beginning depended on the Arabs, so they did not plan for an army or a government at the time when the Jews were preparing everything for proclaiming their state on the very eve of the withdrawal of the British forces from the Palestinian territories to end the British mandate which lasted for a quarter of a century.

From the beginning also, the Arabs imposed their trusteeship on the Palestine question to the extent that the origin of the issue was lost and the conflict became an Arab-Israeli one.

Instead of solving the question collectively, every Arab country turned this question into a "trump card" and tried to control it. Due to Arab trusteeship, Palestine has not been liberated and the Palestinian forces have been divided into conflicting factions which reflected the conflicts, disputes, and diversified interests of the Arabs.

The Palestinians have suffered bitterly from the Israelis, but they have suffered even more from the Syrians, who in recent years concentrated on fighting the Palestinians, chasing and evicting them from every land on which they set up their camps.

The Arab-Israeli conflict could have continued another 40 years had it not been for the uprising which stunned all parties—Jews, Arabs, and Palestinian leaderships.

Then came the second important development which was King Husayn's termination of legal ties with the West Bank in July.

For the first time the Palestinians have felt that they are to a certain extent free from Arab trusteeship which gagged their mouths and annulled their minds. So the Palestinians revised their position in accordance with their own responsibility.

Thus, those who attended the PNC meetings have noticed something new among the Palestinians which did not exist before. The tone of conflicts, oneupmanships, fanaticisms, and recriminations have come to an end.

The Palestinians have proclaimed their state and accepted Resolution No 242 with a majority vote which was respected by the minority.

Arab trusteeship has been lifted off the Palestine question which is now in the hands of the Palestinians.

One wonders when Arab trusteeship will be lifted off Lebanon so it will become a Lebanese issue.

AL-AHRAM on U.S. Reaction to PNC Statement

JN2211121888 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Nov 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Recognized Twice"]

[Text] It is not surprising that Tel Aviv and Washington used almost the same words to belittle the significance of the PNC resolutions by saying that the declaration of the state is rejected, the pledge to renounce terrorism is insufficient, the recognition of Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 is too vague, and the recognition of Israel is extremely obscure.

Although the two sides gave different reasons for their rejection, they used one fully coordinated and harmonious tone. It is not deficient to have such conformity as long as there is a strategic alliance between the two countries, in addition to the well-known background of historical cooperation between them. What is really deficient is to criticize the resolutions as if they have not read them, or have read them and publicly denied them.

It is a blatant monstrosity that although most of the resolutions came in response to uncompromising and one-sided U.S. wishes pressed for years, it was Washington itself that gave such a disappointing answer. We even saw the U.S. State Department's spokesman interfere officially to correct an "opinion" President Reagan expressed in a dialogue with a journalist.

Asked if the United States was ready to embark on dialogue with the PLO after the latter's acceptance of the two UN resolutions—which is the known U.S. condition—the President said this subject is now under study. Here the spokesman intervened to announce that the President "means" that it is the PNC resolutions that are being studied.

Taken together, the U.S. position is that the Palestinian resolutions look encouraging but are insufficient to change this position. This means assigning the peaceful solution and peace efforts to an unknown future and allowing Israel greater opportunities to continue its plan in the hope of finishing off the uprising and dislodging the people who, amid struggle, dared to rejoice at the declaration of the state even if this declaration is still on paper.

This also means opening the door for the new government in Washington to hold on to the same position because its policy will be an extension of the Republican Party's policy, or even set new impossible conditions.

How, by God, is there no explicit recognition of Israel in the resolutions when this recognition was cited twice: Once in the paragraph on the declaration of state, which is based on the legitimacy of the 1947 partition resolution, and this is an acknowledgement of the existence of the Jewish state, and a second time in the paragraph accepting the two resolutions that both include a recognition of Israel's existence?

A third instance of such a recognition perhaps lies in the declaration's reference to the state's peaceful coexistence with all countries in the region and in the world at large.

We have too high an opinion of the United States and its principles and declared policies to see it fail to support the right which came knocking at its door in accordance with its demands and conditions.

'Abd Al-Majid Confers With Palestinian, Italian

NC2111132988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani who stated that this meeting continued consultations between Egypt and the PLO. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd al-Majid also met with the deputy Italian prime minister. Discussions concerned the EC member states' stand on the declaration of the Palestinian state. Dr 'Abd

al-Majid reiterated Egypt's stand on the need to speed the convocation of the international peace conference and on Europe's role in this regard.

Economic Delegation Departs for Soviet Union

NC2111154588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—An Egyptian economic cooperation delegation led by 'Abd al-'Aziz Zahawi, first under secretary at the Ministry of International Cooperation, left Cairo this afternoon for a 5-day visit to Moscow.

In a predeparture statement, Zahawi said that he will lead the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Soviet Committee on Economic Cooperation, which start in Moscow tomorrow. He added that the Soviet delegation will be headed by the deputy minister of foreign economic relations. Zahawi noted that this will be the first time that the committee has met in almost 15 years.

He disclosed that Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, will lead Egypt's delegation to the joint committee meeting at the ministerial level, scheduled to be held in Cairo in January, while the Soviet minister of foreign economic relations will lead his country's delegation.

'Abd al-'Aziz Zahawi revealed that the discussions at the committee meetings will focus on various Egyptian projects in the industrial, agricultural, electricity, and construction fields, which the Soviet side can help in setting up and financing.

The two delegations also will discuss the feasibility of establishing joint projects in Egypt following the adoption by Moscow of a new policy to participate in joint projects outside the Soviet Union.

He added that the possibility of the two countries' cooperation in third countries through the use of Soviet technology and equipment and Egyptian manpower and expertise also will be discussed.

Concluding his statement, Zahawi said that discussions also will examine the possibility of having the Soviet Union overhaul the projects that already have been set up in Egypt by Soviet establishments, such as the iron and steel complex, the Al-Nasr Coke Company, and the aluminium complex in Naj' Hammadi.

Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Holds Talks

TA2011054188 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1550 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo (A.A)—Egypt is pleased with the efforts Turkey is making to help reach a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem and it wants to develop its bilateral relations with Turkey in every area.

Ambassador Nuzhet Kandemir, Foreign Ministry under secretary, concluded his first day of talks in Cairo, where he is visiting as the guest of his Egyptian counterpart, Wafa Hijazi.

The Turkish delegation headed by Ambassador Kandemir and the Egyptian delegation headed by Hijazi held their first session this morning.

Sources close to the talks report that this morning the two delegations discussed in detail regional and international issues, mainly the developments concerning the Palestinian problem.

During the meeting, the Egyptian side was told that Turkey will continue to exert efforts to contribute to the Middle East peace process within the framework of its active impartiality policy.

The two sides also discussed the Iran-Iraq peace talks being held under the auspices of the UN secretary general and the developments in Lebanon.

Ambassador Kandemir was then separately received by Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, minister of foreign affairs, and Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Ambassador Kandemir will continue to hold official talks in Cairo tomorrow.

Gives News Conference

NC2011201488 Cairo MENA in English 1830 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, Nov 20 (MENA)—The Joint Egyptian-Turkish Committee will hold its first meeting in Cairo under the two countries' ministers of foreign affairs December 14-17. This was stated by Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Nuzhet Kandemir in a press conference he held here today.

Kandemir said his talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy premier and foreign minister, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali were greatly fruitful.

Kandemir, who started a visit to Egypt on November 17, held talks with Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, who heads the Egyptian side to the Joint Egyptian-Turkish Economic Committee.

The Turkish deputy foreign minister said talks focused on regional and international issues of common interest, besides bilateral relations. Kandemir said he discussed with Egyptian officials Middle East developments, including the Palestinian cause, the situation in Lebanon, Iraq-Iran peace talks and the situation in the Gulf in general, besides the situation in Afghanistan, as well as African issues.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the Turkish official said his country exerted great efforts not to escalate the scale of the Gulf War to other states of the region and to ameliorate relations between the two warring parties.

The Egyptian-Turkish talks covered the Turkish-Greek dialogue, the Moslem minority problem in Bulgaria, and the Turkish-EC relations. Kandemir said the two sides also discussed stepping up trade relations between Egypt and Turkey and the prospects of setting up a joint holding investment company.

The intensifying of cultural exchange beween the two countries was also considered during the Egyptian-Turkish talks.

Kandemir added that he invited prime minister, Dr Sidqi, on behalf of Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal, to visit Turkey. The visit will take effect after the meeting of the Joint Egyptian-Turkish Committee in Ankara.

Italian Official Discusses Meeting With Mubarak

NC2011152888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Italian Deputy Prime Minister Gianni de Michelis has said that during his audience with President Husni Mubarak today existing bilateral relations, particularly in the economic fields, were discussed.

He added that he gave President Mubarak a message from the Italian Government and prime minister on Italy's support for the improvement and strengthening of bilateral cooperation in all fields.

The Italian official expressed his belief that cooperation should be increased among Mediterranean countries so as to achieve stability in these countries and eliminate points of tension in the region. He said that Italy wishes to contribute to this through cooperation with Egypt, particularly in the fields of economic development and environmental protection.

He noted that the Higher Joint Egyptian-Italian Committee will meet next February. He expressed the hope that thorough preparations would be made for this meeting so that as much may be achieved as possible and the greatest possible benefit accrue from bilateral cooperation.

De Michelis said: We also discussed the political situation in the region and the Palestinian problem in the wake of the PNC resolutions and the Israeli elections. We agreed that we will look positively at the PNC resolutions. He noted that Italy is coordinating its stand with that of the EEC.

He stated: Italy will take a positive stand during the EEC summit in December. He added that he had confirmed this to President Mubarak. He also noted that the Italian president and prime minister will pay an official visit to Egypt early next year. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

'Arafat Interviewed Upon Arrival in Nouakchott

LD1911035088 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Fighter Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in the capital tonight. President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya was at the forefront of those who welcomed him on arrival. [passage omitted]

His excellency the president and his guest then went to the VIP lounge where the national press held the following interview with the PLO Executive Committee chairman.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] First of all, I feel that I am among my relatives and brothers, particularly the brother president, for whom our people have great esteem, pride, and love.

I (?would like) to thank His Excellency the President for this principled and firm stance which Mauritania, its president, government, and people, take toward the Palestinian people's struggle and to put [words indistinct] the picture of the details of the results of the PNC which ended its proceedings in Algeria lately and adopted these historical resolutions and these fateful [words indistinct] related to the declaration of independence of the state of Palestine.

May this declaration, God willing, result in the hoisting of the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem, and over [words indistinct]. I will also listen to his advice so that my brothers and I can (?proceed) with this difficult march.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency Mr Chairman, can you tell us your assessment after the PNC session of the recognition of the Palestinian state and your impressions following these recognitions of the new state?

['Arafat] Up to now 31 recognitions have reached us including the (?de facto) recognition announced by the Soviet Union; and recognitions are still reaching us, thank God.

This is due to the blessing of this cause and the efforts of our Arab brothers and our friends worldwide, who believe that this cause is theirs and this struggle is theirs.

[Reporter] Mr Chairman, can we expect the formation of a Palestinian government?

['Arafat] This is among the resolutions which were adopted and discussed at the PNC. It was decided to adjourn, with the proviso that the Central Council and

the Executive Committee would look into it afterwards in light of the circumstances which might affect it.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, what is your assessment of the stance of the two superpowers?

['Arafat] We have to take them in our considerations. This is among the main reasons which prompted us to adopt these resolutions. We are now living in a new era of international concord whose signs have appeared in the rapprochment between the Soviet Union and the United States.

It appears that there are eight hotbeds in the world: Afghanistan, the Gulf War, Cyprus, South Africa, Central America, Cambodia, and the Palestinian cause, in addition to the agreement on Star Wars, medium- and long-range missiles, multiple warheads, and others.

We have to take all these things into account in our actions so that this concord will take place, for we as an Islamic nation and the Palestinian people would benefit from it. [end recording]

After this meeting, His Excellency Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, and his guest fighter Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO Executive Committee chairman, went to the presidential palace, where they held private talks.

Yasir 'Arafat is accompanied by Messrs Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of pan-Arab relations; Hani al-Hasan, member of the PLO Executive Committee and adviser; and Abu Tariq, member of the PLO Executive Committee and adviser to Yasir 'Arafat on Arab affairs.

Union Ban Lifted; Seen as Democratization Step

AB1811211988 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 18 Nov 88

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Mauritania has not generally been known for its vigorous trade unions. In fact, under military rule, trade union activity has been banned for 4 years.

But now, as Shea Bakai reports in his telex from Nouakchott, that ban has been lifted.

[Begin studio announcer recording] The unions were suspended in 1984 following a lengthy power struggle between the two principal political factions within the unions: the Nasserites and the communists.

Because political parties are banned in Mauritania, the trade union movement has always been used as a vehicle for political expression by various clandestine movements.

The dispute between the Nasserites and the communists, who made up the union's central committee, began a year after elections in 1982 in which they formed a coalition.

The conflict deepened when the union's general secretary, (El-Kore Ould Hamaiti), was arrested in March 1984 and along with others accused of supporting the aims of the Nasserite movement.

The deputy secretary general energetically criticized (El-Kore) and sided with the authorities. They for their part tried to settle the differences within the union by setting up an arbitration committee, but this failed to make any progress.

The decision to allow the unions to start operating again comes at a time when Mauritanians are preparing for the final phase of municipal elections. These are seen by Mauritanian head of state Colonel Ould Taya as part of the process of gradual democratization in the country.

The campaign for the municipal elections starts next month and will enable villagers and nomads to have their own elected municipal councils. This follows elections last year in small towns and the year before that in major urban centers.

Observers in Nouakchott see the decision to reactivate the trade unions as part of the process of cautious democratization. [end recording]

Sudan

SPLM-SPLA Command Denies Attack on Plane

EA2111153288 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1330 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Here now is a statement that has just been released by the official spokesman for the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Comand on the plane incident that occurred at Waw on 17 November this year and which involved retired General 'Abd Al-Majid Hamid Khalil, the minister of defense, and other senior officers.

1. The SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command strongly condemns the desperate attempt of the anti-peace forces within the governing coalition in Khartoum to wreck the SPLM-SPLA-DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] peace initiative of 16 November 1988.

Claims by the prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, that the SPLM-SPLA was responsible for the attack on the aircraft that was flying the minister of defense and other senior Army officers out of Waw on 17 November 1988 are without foundation and a malicious attempt designed to cast doubt on the sincerity of the movement in its quest for peace.

2. The antipeace forces unsuccessfully tried to forestall the launching of the SPLM-SPLA-DUP peace initiative by attempting to assassinate the DUP leader Al-Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani. Shots were fired at his residence only 1 day before his departure for Addis Ababa, where he signed the peace initiative with the SPLM-SPLA leader on 16 November 1988.

Having failed in their bid to block the emergence of the peace initiative, the same antipeace forces turned their attention and energies to destroying it. This time Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil who had promptly declared both his personal support and that of the Army for the peace initiative soon after its endorsement became the target of an assassination attempt.

Both assassination attempts could hardly have been coincidental.

Both personalities have thrown their full weight beind the SPLM-SPLA-DUP agreement and the inescapable conclusion is that whichever elements have been plotting to get rid of Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani are the very same elements who seek to eliminate the minister of defense, Retired Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, since the political common factor that binds the two prominent figures is none other than their commitment to bringing to fruition the recent peace initiative.

3. The obvious perpetrators of these heinous acts of political sabotage are the forces opposed to peace within the government. All indications are that the attempt to bring down the C-130 Hercules transport plane on which the minister of defense and his top aides were traveling was an inside job by elements of the prime minister's Ummah Party and the religious bigots of the fundamentalist National Islamic Front, the NIF.

For its part, the NIF has already expressed in a vociferous manner its hostility to the peace initiative. The prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, has been compelled to jump on the peace bandwagon by the tide of popular support for the SPLM-SPLA-DUP peace initiative.

In reality he does not have the least desire to implement the peace initiative and his true intentions can be deduced from his pointing of the finger of accusation for the plane incident at the SPLA and the charge that the movement has allegedly demonstrated its lack of seriousness about peace. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has a powerful incentive to stymie the renewed drive towards a national constitutional conference. In the first place, the peace initiative is wholly unpalatable to the prime minister because if it eventually culminates in a national constitutional conference that satisfactorily resolves Sudan's fundamental problems, a substantial degree of credit would accrue to the DUP, traditionally the arch rival of Al-Sadiq's Ummah Party.

Such a scenario would certainly cost Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi a lot of political support and inevitably translate into a defeat at the polls during any future elections.

Secondly, the prime minister has resolved as a matter of policy not to engage in any meaningful political dialogue with the SPLM-SPLA and the rest of Sudan's political forces unless he feels he can talk from a position of strength and thus be able to dictate terms.

Given the current military situation and prospective developments in the same sphere, both of which do not favor the regime in Khartoum, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi certainly regards the moment as inopportune for a national constitutional conference and will work to destroy the peace initiatives, meanwhile stepping up military operations against SPLM-SPLA in order to create the conditions he deems suitable for his version of a national constitutional conference.

4. As part of their antipeace propaganda the prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and the NIF leader, Dr Hasan al-Turabi, are now on the lookout for the slightest opportunity that would enable them to depict SPLM-SPLA in the adverse light of being a warmonger whose motives for signing the recent peace initiative are suspect.

The Sudanese people will have no difficulty in appreciating that any military operations conducted by the movement between now and the prospective national constitutional conference and which the Ummah and the INF may raise objections to are absolutely legitimate and

justified, since there is no cease-fire yet to preclude such operations, especially when they are rendered imperative by Khartoum's own offensive operations.

The cease-fire stipulated in the SPLM-SPLA-DUP peace initiative is an integral part of the initiative and the continued bloodshed only lends more urgency to the need to start implementing the prerequisites of the peace initiative so as to convene the national constitutional conference by the target date.

5. And in a related development the chairman and commander in chief of SPLM-SPLA, Dr John Garang de Mabior, has expressed great relief for the good fortune that has enabled Retired Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, a close personal friend of his, to survive the wicked attempt to assassinate him and the officers who had been accompanying him.

The SPLM-SPLA leader has taken the opportunity to wish Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil good health and a long life and expressed his confidence that this incident will not in any way shake his commitment to peace.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister Receives British Counterpart

LD2211113388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0957 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Nov (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, received this morning at his office in Riyadh the British secretary of state for defense, George Younger, and his accompanying delegation who are currently visiting Saudi Arabia.

After that, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the British secretary of state for defense held a working session.

The session was attended from the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy minister of defense and aviation and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abdallah ibn Muhammad, assistant minister of defense and aviation for civil aviation affairs; 'Uthman al-Humayd, assistant minister of defense and aviation for military affairs; Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, chief of the General Staff; and commanders of the land, sea, and air defense forces.

The session was attended from the British side by the delegation accompanying the British defense secretary.

Petroleum Minister Explains New Oil Strategy

LD2111012388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 20 Nov, (SPA)—The minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning, Hisham Muhyi al-Din Nazir has said that the oil industry would be hindered if it does not include all the stages of industry, from the wellhead to the service station.

He was referring to the new oil strategy recently adopted by the Kingdom in the wake of developments in the oil sector that required the Kingdom to adopt a new policy aimed at setting up an integral oil industry.

Mr Nazir has shed light in some detail on the meaning of the setting up of of the Saudi Arab Petroleum Company, and its recent agreement with the U.S. Texaco Company for oil and marketing, and the agreement to grant Petromin two concessions for mining.

At the beginning of a statement broadcast this evening by Saudi television, he said that the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, had directed him to find a strong oil policy, able to stand on its own feet and survive in a fluctuating oil market marked by fierce competition. He said that the directives had not been made at the last meetings of the Council of Ministers, but about 2 years ago.

He said: The Saudi Arabian Petroleum Company is the biggest oil producing company in the world, and Saudi Arabia is the state with the biggest oil reserves in the world. This is why it would not be reasonable for it to participate in one of the stages of oil industry and not in other stages.

This causes some concern in the oil market at the moment, and now and again causes ups and downs for the incomes of the Kingdom because of what happens in the oil market.

He said that the growth and prosperity of Saudi Arabia, the stability and prosperity of its people, and the involvement of Saudi Arabia in the great developments of the world in the last 20 years come as a blessing from Almighty God and also from our income from oil industry.

His excellency the minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning addressed the implications of establishing the Saudi Arabian Petroleum Company.

He said: The aim of this is to find a system capable of quick action and of responding to the needs of the market by drastically reducing costs through the possession of bodies that would enable us to implement such a policy.

He pointed out that, in order to achieve these objectives, the Kingdom has begun to set up the International Marketing Company, the aim of which is to sell crude oil throughout the world.

The oil minister pointed out that previously the process of selling oil was done either through the big four companies or through various arrangements which sometimes led to a loss of part of the Kingdom's share in the market as a result of the absence of an efficient marketing establishment.

He said that the International Marketing Company recently set up by the Kingdom has offices throughout the world and is run by Saudi youths. He said that it is now marketing througout the world, that is, distributing the Kingdom's share.

He added that when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia bought the utilities that were set up by Aramco, there was no bureacracy able to take over and develop these utilities so that, ultimately, they could become the Saudi Arabian Petroleum Company.

He pointed out that this organizational step was taken according to a royal decree. He pointed out that on the one hand the setting up of this company has left its marketing and commercial relations with the mother company, which cooperates with the Kingdom, and on the other hand the rights and privileges of its employers and workers remain as before.

His Excellency Hisham Nazir stressed that what has happened is an organizational step that is necessary to give the Saudi Arabian Petroleum Company, which owns all these utlities, the legal basis to deal in oil affairs at the international level.

He pointed out that there has been continuous cooperation in all fields between the Saudi Arabian Petroleum Company and Aramco, especially since the Kingdom put the organizational structures within a theoretical framework. His Excellency Minister Nazir added: The agreement reached between the Saudi Arabian Petroleum Company and the U.S. Texaco Oil and Marketing Company guarantees the marketing of 600,000 barrels of Saudi crude oil per day. He pointed out that that is the biggest deal of its kind so far in the marketing field.

His excellency outlined the contents of this agreement and said that the latter gives the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the right to market its oil in 23 eastern and southern states in the United States and places the Saudi Arabian Petroleum Company in third place as far as marketing in the eastern part of the United States is concerned.

He said that the United States is an important oil market—in fact the biggest developing market for the consumption of oil in the world. [passage omitted]

In return the Texaco Oil and Marketing Company has secured permanent and stable oil supplies and a partner it can rely on. It has also made sure that its work force and administration will not be subjected to any type of shake ups as a result of the circumstances which Texaco experienced of late.

His excellency said that the establishment of the Saudi Arabian Petroleum Company is a pioneering and very good step which realizes the aim of the custodian of the two holy mosques—the establishment of a strong petroleum industry capable of standing on its own two feet and remaining so. [passage omitted]

His excellency then outlined the difference between the buyer's market and the seller's market in the oil sphere and said in the case of the seller's market the buyer will come to the market as long as he needs the commodity; but if it is a buyer's market, then the seller should seek the buyer wherever he may be and give him incentives. As long as it is a buyer's market, we have to set up appropriate bodies. [passage omitted]

His excellency pointed out that the oil industry will remain incomplete if all its elements are not present; and he said that the marketing area is important because crude oil does not benefit the seller or the buyer in the long run, but that a strong industry is a comprehensive one. [passage omitted]

His excellency noted that the Kingdom is now a partner in 8 percent of the oil market in the eastern and southern United States, and the Kingdom is third in the marketing of oil products there.

However, he added, the U.S. market is big and will remain big, and there is also the very big market of Japan, Europe, and the Far East. We as oil producers have to penetrate these markets and establish channels in them to assist in and ensure the marketing of Saudi oil. [passage omitted]

His excellency explained that oil is easier to discover and faster to yield revenue than other minerals because the mining process is exhausting and entails great personal and investment risks.

He added that the latest discoveries have almost certainly found about 14 minerals. We hope, God willing, their production will be in commercial quantities.

However, his excellency added, this still requires more research and investigation and also requires the granting of concessions for mining these minerals, which will greatly help the Kingdom increase its revenue. He noted that such minerals do not bring the same or similar returns as oil because investing in minerals takes about 10 years.

The minister referred to the granting of a mining concession to Peiromin to exploit the Mahd al-Dhahab Mine and to the granting of a mining concession to Peiromin and another company to exploit gold in the Al-Sukhaybrat mine.

He said: We have discovered around the Mahd al-Dhahab mine a huge area full of metals and it is probable that gold is there in commercial quantities, God willing.

As for other metals, he said, the custodian of the two holy mosques has directed us to pursue the following method: To declare the areas first and then select the companies capable of exploiting them in partnership with Saudi citizens if profitable deposits of these metals is proven. Shares will then be offered to the citizens to participate in such exploitation.

His excellency hastened to add that we do not prefer citizens to take a gamble in the first stage, but prefer their entry when the economic feasability of the project is proven.

His excellency stressed that there is no comparison between the Kingdom's oil reserves and its metals reserves, pointing out that the oil reserves are well in excess of the metals reserves. [passage omitted]

His excellency said that the agreement with the U.S. Texaco Oil and Marketing Company is an important event due to the size of the agreement, despite the fact that some states in the Middle East and Venezuela have entered the marketing sphere.

He said: We believe that the decisions made by Kuwait and Venezuela are wise. He added that Nigeria is now negotiating to enter this market and it is following the correct method.

His excellency stressed that if the Kingdom had wanted to build the facilities which it purchased from Texaco for $800 million, it would have needed $7 billion, including the cost of buildings, the land, and the cost of entering new areas and new places with new marketing facilities.

We want to join Texaco as partners; we will provide the crude reserves, which cost us nothing, he added, stressing that this commercial deal serves both sides, not just one side at the expense of the other. Therefore it is acceptable because it is a fair deal and has won the support of all circles concerned with oil marketing.

His Excellency Hisham Nazir was asked where was the place of the Saudi man in the scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources. He said: He is at its heart.

Look at Aramco and you will find that more than 70 percent of its workers and officials are Saudis and most of them contribute to the administration. We have only the internationally qualified Saudi youth at the front. [passage omitted]

His excellency urged Saudi youth to work in the various oil establishments, saying: We need Saudi youths to work in the desert and in plants in Jubayl, Yunbu', and Rabagh so that they may realize the great hopes pinned on them by their country and king.

He also urged Saudi youths to take advantage of the opportunities available to manage these establishments, thus realizing the hopes of the custodian of the two holy mosques.

At the conclusion of his statement, Mr Hisham Nazir stressed there are many Saudi youths in the numerous oil establishments of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, and he hoped to see more of them with regard to both number and quality.

Commentary on U.S. Rejection of Palestinian State
LD1811224088 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Nov 88

[News and comment by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] The U.S. Administration has officially rejected the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state and described it as incompatible with the official U.S. stance on the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The U.S. rejection of the proclamation of the Palestinian state was not surprising. The U.S. Administration was expected to adopt such a stance consistent with previous U.S. stances. Even if these stances were of various hues, they all focus on a single point—that the PLO should explicitly recognize Israel.

As for the U.S. Administration's stance on the destiny of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, it says that this depends on negotiations among the concerned parties, and yet the U.S. Administration excludes the PLO from being one of these parties.

So the problem, or the U.S. nonrecognition of the PLO, applies to the declaration of the Palestinian state. This now constitutes a U.S. principle which seems difficult to overcome, even with the PLO's recognition of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, recognition that was implicitly included in the documents proclaiming the Palestinian state [words indistinct] and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

So the situation is more complicated than recognizing a resolution or declaring concessions for the sake of reaching agreement. The situation could be summarized in the insistence on absolute rejection for the sake of rejection and for the sake of not allowing the Palestinian people any rights.

This is the truth, because the rejectionists explicitly call on the Palestinians to abandon everything for nothing. They call on the Palestinians to put all their cards gradually on the table, and then the winning card will be in the hands of the Israeli enemy. This is nothing but the truth.

In this respect the Palestinian fears are substantiated. They are fears justified by the other side's insistence that the Palestinians should [words indistinct], because calling for peace means equality, and the Israeli enemy and those who support his injustice do not accept equality. However, the truth was not and will not be defeated even if we have to wait for a long time.

United Arab Emirates

Visiting UK Defense Secretary Departs 21 Nov
JN2111194488 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1809 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Nov (WAM)—George Younger, British secretary of state for defense, and his accompanying delegation left the country this evening. He was seen off by Chief of Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, a number of ranking officers in the Armed Forces, and British Ambassador to the UAE Michael Tate.

The British secretary of state arrived in the country last night heading a delegation on an official visit to the UAE, during which he met a number of officials in the Armed Forces.

YAR Economic Affairs Official Makes Visit

JN2011191888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Shaykh Mubarak ibn Muhammad, UAE minister of the interior, received this evening Dr Hasan Muhammad Makki, YAR prime minister for economic affairs and Standing Committee member, who arrived in Abu Dhabi this afternoon on a visit to the UAE lasting several days. The meeting was attended by YAR Ambassador to the UAE Muhammad Hatim al-Khawi.

Meets With Counterpart

JN2111134988 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, deputy prime minister, met in his office at the Presidency this morning with His Excellency Dr Hasan Muhammad Makki, YAR deputy prime minister for economic affairs, presently visiting the country.

Dr Makki renewed an invitation from Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani to Shaykh Hamdan to visit the YAR. His highness promised to take it up at a date yet to be set. They discussed bilateral ties and Arab developments following the PNC resolutions and proclamation of the independent Palestinian state.

Dr Makki said the two sides held identical views on the points raised, especially the proclamation of the Palestinian state that has won the support of both the UAE and YAR.

He added that they discussed how to promote support for the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their legitimate rights. He called his meeting with Shaykh Hamdan extremely encouraging with the sides voicing their desire to see bilateral ties further strengthened.

AL-BAYAN Supports Palestinian Proclamation

JN1811112688 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 16 Nov 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Responsibilities of the Stage of the Palestinian State"]

[Text] The historic proclamation of the establishment of a Palestinian state early on Tuesday 15 November 1988 is not a target in itself but the beginning of another advanced and developed stage of Palestinian struggle to restore all the Palestinian people's inalienable and legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

This stage will certainly be extremely sensitive and important because the proclamation of the Palestinian state will create new facts and entail Palestinian and international responsibilities.

One of the most prominent immediate results of the stage of the Palestinian state was the declaration of the Palestinian peace program for the international conference, which coincided with the proclamation of the Palestinian state by the emergency PNC session in Algiers.

The Palestinian peace program is in essence one of the elements of the proclamation of the establishment of the Palestinian state because it advocates the continuation of the Palestinian people's struggle to hold the international conference on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 so that the Palestinian state will become a reality, while guaranteeing the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights, headed by their right to self-determination.

Thus, the Palestinan people will again open all bridges and channels to the international community so that the latter will say a decisive word of truth after the ball had remained motionless in the American-Israeli court for years.

The proclamation of the Palestinian state is the third dimension of the Palestinian move following struggle with both rifle and word. This proclamation is characterized by two constants in Palestinian action: Considering the popular uprising in the occupied territories an important beginning of this state and considering the proclamation itself a message and a touchstone of the intentions and approaches of the members of the international community.

Several Arab and foreign countries yesterday hastened to announce their support for the establishment of the Palestinian state and this is natural. It is also natural for the United States to hesitate in announcing its position as expected. It may take Washington a long or short time before it announces its stand.

However, the Arabs will not be surprised if the United States declares its refusal to recognize the Palestinian state. This move is anticipated and taken for granted and will neither disappointment nor astonish anyone. By this hesitation, Washington may hope to place itself in a new strong bargaining position.

As for the silence of other states, particularly the big ones, it is high time for these countries to take a specific, clear, and unambiguous position because exercising silence at these moments under the slogan of "study and waiting" is considered some sort of negativism.

Some of these countries were among the first to recognize the establishment of the Israeli entity. Others hastened to recognize the partition resolution. As an extension of these stands, these states should give the Palestinians their rights by equally recognizing their state as they recognized Israel.

This is the least that can be demanded of these states now if we take into consideration the principle of reciprocity and the positions they adopted in 1947.

President Writes Justice Minister on Son's Attack

JN2111170688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Nov 88

["Text" of letter by President Saddam Husayn to justice minister—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And when you judge between man and man, that you judge with justice. [Koranic verse]

Mr Justice Minister, may God's peace and blessings be upon you. On Tuesday night, 18 October 1988, the unforeseen took place. But God Almighty has wished it so. I firmly believe that through this, God has wished all good for the Iraqis, for me, and for my family, in spite of the grief that we have felt.

Mr Minister, what took place is the death of an Iraqi. The direct cause for this death was my son, 'Udayy. The deceased, may God's mercy be upon him, was a messenger I employed. He was a government employee and his name is Kamil Hanna Jirjis.

When I heard about the incident, I summoned those who were witnesses to it in the presence of my comrades, the RCC and command members. They recounted the incident to us as follows:

On that night, Kamil Hanna, may God's mercy be upon him, invited some male members of his family and relatives to a dinner before which alcoholic drinks were served. The dinner was held on Al-A'ras tourist island near Al-Jabiriyah bridge, situated in the Tigris River south of the presidential palace and in front of the houses of some regional command members and ministers.

Opposite lies the main guest house of the Presidency, where President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's wife was residing as our guest and the guest of our family.

'Udayy lives in one of the houses in the command complex I have previously mentioned. Before and shortly after midnight, Kamil Hanna was shooting intensively with his pistol and rifle in a jubilant manner after becoming intoxicated from the alcoholic drinks.

'Udayy and several of his friends at this hour were on the balcony of his house in the command housing complex. 'Udayy tasked Salam Hazza', one of those entrusted with his protection, to go to the late Kamil Hanna and to tell him to stop shooting, or he will inform Saddam Husayn of this encroachment.

After Salam Hazza' left and transmitted the message to Kamil Hanna, the latter stopped firing for 15 minutes, then resumed firing in a more intensive manner. 'Udayy was left with no choice but to go to him accompanied by Salam Hazza'.

When he reached Kamil Hanna and his group, 'Udayy asked Kamil: Has our message asking you to stop shooting been given to you by Salam Hazza'? Kamil replied: Yes, he told me so. 'Udayy then dealt him one blow on the head with a stick to teach him a lesson.

Munir Hanna Jirjis, Kamil's brother, said that 'Udayy's blow was originally aimed at the deceased shoulder or his back. But the deceased moved his head and the blow struck his head.

This is the gist of what I have heard from those who were present when the incident took place. These are Sabri Yaldaq Shabir, the deceased's maternal uncle; Munir Hanna Jirjis, the deceased's brother; Benyamin Jaddu Mithal, the deceased's uncle; Qol Qisho, a friend of the deceased; Yusuf Yunan Hannu; 'Ali Ibrahim; and Salam Hazza', who was tasked with 'Udayy's protection.

They gave this testimony before me at midday Wednesday, 19 October 1988, and before my comrades, the members of the RCC and the command, and this is what God Almighty has wished, and His wishes are irreversible.

I have scrutinized the incident after becoming acquainted with its developments. I recalled that, as far as I know, Kamil had not failed to abide by my orders before nor had he failed to abide by a sound order issued by my family. However, this had already taken place.

'Udayy had never killed anyone before, as far as I know. But this occurred as a result of a deed carried out by 'Udayy, so how did it actually happen? Finally, I reached an explanation: God wanted this to occur, and nothing can prevent the will of God the Almighty. From God we come and to Him we return.

Perhaps, God wanted to test our patience in such a matter as well as our endurance and justice—whether we will administer justice according to its pillars and conceptions concerning a matter related to our children or whether we will administer justice only concerning others' slips and behavior.

Mr Minister, you, along with Iraqis who know Saddam Husayn well, realize that any good Iraqi is part of the conception of Saddam Husayn's large family. You also realize that the harm done to them will also harm Saddam Husayn and that everyone is treated equally regarding what afflicts our small family.

The justice that Saddam Husayn wants to administer in Iraq within the limits of his constitutional responsibility exempts no case or person, including the offspring of Saddam Husayn himself, whether justice or injustice is done to them. We will measure up to the good opinion of God, and we will abide by and endure God's ruling.

'Udayy tried to commit suicide when on Wednesday morning he heard that Kamil, may God's mercy be upon him, passed away early in the morning of that day and when he also heard that his death was due to the blow he had dealt him with a stick.

Thankfully, 'Udayy's life was saved at the Ibn Sina hospital after its doctors treated him. After 'Udayy's condition was no longer critical, we transferred him to jail on 21 October 1988. He is still in jail, awaiting the ruling of Iraqi justice.

He has tried to commit suicide twice in jail and has been saved from death. By doing so, 'Udayy wanted to express regret over the harm he has done to the Iraqi family.

Mr Minister of Justice, you are asked to conduct the proper investigation into the incident and to try 'Udayy properly. May God help the judges whom you will assign to issue a just verdict based on the law to express the meaning of justice as well as what pleases both God the almighty and society. Both God and justice are above all.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, 21 November 1988, corresponding to 11 Rabi' Al-Thani 1409 Hegira

Saddam Husayn Decorates, Addresses Fighters

JN2111195188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has asserted people having deep-rooted, inherited traditions that they can accept are heavily relied on in many issues, including the defense of the homeland.

In a ceremony to decorate a new batch of fighters with medals for bravery, his excellency commented on remarks by the fighters. He said: The Iraqi people have deep rooted standards, values, and a history, and they have honorably defended their country. This was carried out in the most splendid way in which nations defend themselves and their countries and values.

He added: The men did not accept harm to their military honor or that of their manhood, so they fought desperately in defense of their homeland and values. Likewise, the Iraqi women did not accept history's recording that they were not up to the required level in backing the men at home and filling the vacuum in society when an ordeal afflicted the homeland, the people, and the nation.

Thus, they played the most splendid roles, which all history has recorded, including what history spoke of at the start of Islam and its great values.

President Saddam Husayn said: There is nothing impossible before the energy of the faithful man when he is correctly inspired by the basis of his faith as well as the values that elevate his standard. So, there is nothing impossible for this man apart from impossible things defined by God Almighty.

The Iranian enemy would not have been defeated in Kurdistan along with the evil traitors accompanying it had the Kurdish people no faith in their Iraqi and Kurdish nationalities and in the autonomous rule, which prompted the sincere combatants to fight alongside the Armed Forces in Kurdistan.

President Saddam Husayn explained that national chivalry is not confined to specific posts or ranks. Attending the ceremony to decorate the 40 fighters with medals were Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; Ahmad Husayn, head of the president's office; Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs; and the Armed Forces General Command staff.

Ambassador to UK Cited on Diplomats' Expulsion

PM2211124088 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Nov 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Ambassador to Britain Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Our Relations Have Passed Critical Stage; Expulsion of Diplomats Something of The Past"]

[Excerpt] London—Iraqi Ambassador to Britain Dr Muhammad al-Mashshat has expressed hope that diplomatic relations between his country and Britain have now passed the critical stage.

Dr al-Mashshat said that he considers the regrettable incident that led to the expulsion of three Iraqi diplomats something of the past and he will continue to work toward developing Iraqi relations with Britain.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the details of the expulsion Dr al-Mashshat said that the incident took place last month. He added: I was surprised at the charges leveled at Samir Karim—who was referred to as my driver and guard, whereas he was actually a receptionist at the embassy—and the charges leveled at the embassy's Third Secretary Ghassan Muhammad Shuqayr and Press Counselor 'Abd al-Husayn Jabbarah.

The Iraqi ambassador said that when the British Foreign Office was asked about the reasons for the expulsion, the answer was that they were involved in activities that conflicted with their diplomatic missions and immunity.

The ambassador pointed out that his country's diplomats work within known British laws and respect the Vienna convention, which is why Iraq decided to respond reciprocally by expelling the British diplomats. [passage omitted]

President Receives Nigerian Education Minister

JN1911165588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has received Nigerian Education Minister Jubril Aminu.

During the meeting, Jubril Aminu conveyed a written message to his excellency the president from Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida on the situation of the international oil market.

The meeting was attended by the president's secretary.

Nigerian Minister Departs

JN2011094388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—Nigerian Education Minister Jubril Aminu left Baghdad this morning following a 2-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, Minister Jubril conveyed a written message from Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the international oil market.

In a statement to INA, Jubril voiced Nigeria's appreciation of the principled Iraqi stands on international issues, especially those pertaining to the international oil market.

Jubril was seen off by Education Minister 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din and the Nigerian ambassador in Baghdad.

Oil Minister Leaves for OAPEC, OPEC Meetings

JN1611195288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi left for Vienna this evening to participate in the OAPEC meetings to be held there tomorrow.

The oil minister will also participate in the meetings of the OPEC oil ministers scheduled to begin in the Austrian capital on Monday [21 November] to discuss developments in the international oil market.

Indonesian Mining and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita and Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Julio Cesar left on the same plane following 2-day visits to Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Support for Palestinians

JN1711142088 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Nov. 17, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad called Arab masses, organizations and regimes to bear their historic responsibilities in backing Palestinian brethren and providing suitable international and Arab climates for them.

A daily commentary here today also called local parties and particularly the Syrian regime which are trying to strike and liquidate the Palestine issue to stop their irresponsible dealing with this sensitive national issue during the next stage.

It urged the world community to seriously work for ending the Zionist occupation of all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and abolishing all measures of annexation and settlements and place occupied Palestinian territories under the supervision of the United Nations for a transitional period after which the Palestinian people would be able to exercise full sovereignty over them.

The daily further emphasized that Arab backing and solidarity of peace loving peoples with the Palestinian people would be an additional factor in realizing the objective of setting up the independent Palestinian state over the land of Palestine. [passage omitted]

On 'Backing' Palestinian State

JN2011124188 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 20, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad called for effective Arab and international coordination to mobilize an international backing to the Palestinian state and convene an international conference.

A daily commentary here today also called for ending Zionist oppressive and terrorist practices against the Palestinian uprising and pushing the American position toward recognizing new facts in the region and away from its full support for Zionist policy.

It referred to the prominence of the role that could be played by France in making Britain, Federal Germany and the EC countries adopt a balanced position.

AL-THAWRAH further stressed the importance of having an effective united Arab stand to mobilize backing to the independent Palestinian state. It said that the united Arab role is the basic pillar for any international attitude leading to attaining national rights of the Palestinian people and establishing their independent state on the soil of Palestine.

AL-ITTIHAD on Military Industrialization

JN1911163588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Iraq intends to promote its military industrialization base and expand its capability to produce a large number of sophisticated weapons systems. Iraq will allocate approximately $20 billion for this purpose.

Western military sources have told AL-ITTIHAD that the coming phase will witness new Iraqi contacts with some European states to revive a number of projects designed to transfer military technology to Iraq.

These projects were frozen during the war with Iran. They include a project to assemble sophisticated combat aircraft such as the French-made Mirage-2000 and Alpha Jet aircraft, exploiting the Egyptian experience in this regard.

These sources added that Iraq is still particularly interested in promoting long-range missile systems, including a project on the SS-300 missile with a 350-km range in cooperation with Brazil. It is expected to produce these missiles for Iraq next year.

Alignment Quits Coalition Talks With Likud
TA2211102588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Our correspondent Razi Barqay has just reported that the Alignment has decided to immediately stop all negotiations with the Likud over forming a new government.

In a meeting of Alignment leaders Peres and Rabin, it was decided that acceptance of the Likud's offers is out of the question and that the Alignment is therefore stopping the talks.

Peres on Conditions for Joining Unity Government
TA2111183688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he will not join a government that is not committed to an international peace conference in advance. Peres was speaking to reporters tonight before meeting with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni in Jerusalem.

[Begin Peres recording] I made it clear that I won't join any government that does not have a peace process with it, and that I won't join any government that is not committed to an international conference in advance, and I won't join any government where Labor does not have a parity, and then positions or solutions unacceptable to us will be imposed upon us.

Now, we shall wait and see. Likud asked to postpone it to another few hours, and probably tonight we shall know. [end recording]

Likud MK Shilansky Elected 12th Knesset Speaker
TA2111162488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Dov Shilansky has been elected speaker of the 12th Knesset. After much commotion and a general uproar, Shilansky was elected by a majority of 64 votes, while Alignment candidate Shlomo Hilel received 55.

Prior to the voting, left-wing parties, led by Labor MK Moshe Shahal, proposed that the election of the speaker be postponed by 1 week. They asked at the same time that the 15 left-wing MK's who had refused to be sworn in at the beginning of the session be allowed to do so, in order to enable them to participate in the subsequent voting.

These proposals raised vehement protests in the right-wing camp, with representatives of both major blocs crowding near the speaker's podium, trying to persuade him to accept their proposals. The speaker finally allowed the 15 MK's to be sworn in, although the request to postpone the election of a new speaker was rejected.

Peres Notes 'Urgent Need' for Electoral Reform
TA2211080888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] There is an urgent need to change the electoral system, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said following yesterday's very stormy opening session of the 12th Knesset. Peres assessed that his party will have to work for this change from within the Knesset and not within the government, reiterating that he is not optimistic about the chances of establishing a broad-based government.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I believe that there is a need to change the electoral system. I initially thought that the most important thing to do is to change the system to one of apportionment, and I still believe that this is right. It would be better if people were to elect someone they know from their district rather than vote for an anonymous slot on a party list.

[Unidentified correspondent] These were remarks made by Peres at an accountants convention in Jerusalem. Peres went on to warn against amending the Law of Return. Yesterday he sounded as if he recognizes the fact that such an amendment, if passed, may bring about a breach between the people of Israel and diaspora Jewry.

Peres also sounded as if he has accepted the fact that his party is going to sit in the opposition. He does not believe that it is possible to obtain those changes he spoke of while participating in a broad-based government.

[Peres] I do not know whether these changes can be made from within a coalition. I believe that this is an initiative we will have to undertake from within the Knesset.

[Correspondent] Meaning that you are giving up on a unity government?

[Peres] I am not optimistic on this subject. [end recording]

Peres Protests Egypt's Decision; Basyuni Comments
TA2111174988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni was summoned this evening to the Foreign Ministry where he was handed Israel's comment on Cairo's decision to

recognize the Palestinian state declared by the PLO. The meeting has just ended. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports from the Foreign Ministry:

The Foreign Ministry spared no effort this evening in making clear Jerusalem's dissatisfaction with the Egyptian decision to recognize the Palestinian state declared in Algiers.

In a move not in accordance with standard procedures in such cases, Egypt's Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni was summoned to meet the foreign minister himself. Correspondents were asked to wait outside.

At the end of the meeting, an official statement was made according to which Minister Shim'on Peres told the Egyptian ambassador that the recognition of the state that was declared in Algiers does not conform with the principle of negotiations for a peaceful solution.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Li'el said that the meeting between Basyuni and Peres can be seen as a statement of protest by Israel against Cairo's decision to recognize the Algiers resolutions. The conversation the two held dealt with analyzing the Algiers summit.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ambassador Basyuni told us that he believes the Egyptian move to be positive. Egypt sees positive points in the Algiers resolutions: for example, a recognition of Israel and of UN Resolution 242, the abandonment of terror, and a commitment to a confederation with Jordan.

Basyuni believes there is no contradiction between the peace agreement and Egypt's recent decision. According to him, disagreements between countries are a natural phenomenon, and both Israel and Egypt are making efforts to strengthen the relations of peace between them. These were Basyuni's remarks after Israel's official protest was handed to him.

Ambassador Shamir: No Crisis With Egypt

TA2211100288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Telephone interview with Prof Shim'on Shamir, ambassador to Egypt, by Gad Becker and Orly Yaniv—live]

[Text] [Becker] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is currently in Cairo to meet with Egyptian leaders in the wake of the declaration establishing the Palestinian state. Good morning to Shim'on Shamir, our ambassador in Cairo.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Becker] Are Israeli-Egyptian relations now facing a crisis, following Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state as declared in Algiers?

[Shamir] There is no crisis at present. The truth is that the Palestinian presence was clearly felt on the political scene yesterday afternoon and again today. The PLO leader's visit is making headline here and is taking up a lot of television airtime. The emphasis is being placed on the creation of renewed harmony and cooperation.

On the other hand, however, the Egyptian Government keeps repeating that this act is not directed against Israel. On the contrary, the aim is to advance peace with Israel.

This message was repeated over and over again in a joint television appearance by Mubarak and 'Arafat: There is a majority in Israel for peace; Israel needs peace; we will advance in the peace process with Israel.

The line, therefore, as it is presented here, is that there are differences of opinion concerning the Egyptian response to the PNC resolutions, but this is all within the framework of advancing the peace process.

[Becker] From the way you are presenting the issue, I get the impression that there is no reason to be overly anxious as far as the Egyptian move is concerned. Is this impression correct?

[Shamir] There is cause for resentment. There is a serious argument between us. This argument started a few days ago, and I believe that it is not over yet. We have expressed our resentment. We are still arguing with the Egyptians over the precise meaning of the PNC resolutions.

We do not accept their interpretation. We feel particularly dissatisfied with the fact that this recognition in effect stipulates final statements on issues that are supposed to be the main topics to be discussed in a peace process when it resumes.

I do not wish to diminish the importance of these disagreements, but if you ask me about a crisis, I say there is none. We are at peace with each other, but we do have differences. We have responded, and there may be a continuation.

As far as the Egyptian stand is concerned, however, it is reiterated here over and over that we are in the midst of a dialogue and that Egypt looks forward to any possible opening of peace negotiations with Israel, regardless of the makeup of the government. We must move forward.

[Becker] You recently spoke with the Egyptian foreign minister, following the PNC resolutions. Did you get the impression that Egypt would have refrained from recognizing this new state if it only could have, that in fact it had no choice?

[Shamir] During the past week there was a lot of commotion here. This issue was cause for a very difficult domestic debate. The Egyptian position passed through three stages: In the first, it stipulated that Egypt's overall support for the PNC resolutions is far more important than recognition, and therefore there is no need to speak of recognition.

The second stage spoke of support that includes a recognition, and the third stage was unilateral recognition itself. All this was accompanied by contradictory announcements and statements, which showed that the Egyptian policy on this issue was indeed in turmoil.

On the one hand, Egypt kept an eye on Israel and its possible responses, while on the other, it was under enormous pressure from the Arab world. The Egyptians found themselves in a position where they could have been left outside a pan-Arab consensus just as they are trying to return to the Arab world.

[Becker] Was there any Egyptian attempt to make this distress known to Israel?

[Shamir] We maintained a constant dialogue with them. They do not let us participate in their decisionmaking process....

[Becker, interrupting] Would you say that it was important for them to make Jerusalem realize that this declaration was not made wholeheartedly or with full political willingness?

[Shamir] Look, no government would say that it did something against its will. What I can tell you is that in conversations I held with Egyptian Government officials, a tremendous effort was made to soften this as much as possible and present it as a good and useful thing for the peace process.

They keep stressing that the Palestinian-Egyptian dialogue is in fact part of a process that will eventually serve Israel's purposes. Of course, we have numerous differences about various aspects of the matter, but the message to Israel is:

Please realize that this is in the framework of our activity aimed at convening an international conference, which is still—and very clearly so—the prevailing policy here. We were repeatedly presented with this message.

[Becker] Mr Shamir, a final question: Is Israel going to take political steps in retaliation for the Egyptian move?

[Shamir] Israel's responses are of course determined in Jerusalem. You had better ask there for a more official response. In the meantime, we have expressed our regret and dissatisfaction, and this is what I am doing here as well.

Let me add, however, that what is important at present is not to play the injured party or indulge in self-pity over being misunderstood, but rather to ask ourselves how we can take advantage of the situation, of the willingness to resume a dialogue in order to continue to advance the peace process.

[Becker] Shim'on Shamir, our ambassador in Cairo, thank you and good morning.

'Possible Meeting' Between Shultz, Palestinians

TA2211111888 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Nov 88 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah, two members of the joint Jordanian-PLO delegation, left for Washington yesterday. According to an unconfirmed report, the two will be part of a Palestinian delegation that will confer with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Our correspondent has learned that during the past 2 months there have been indirect contacts between the PLO and the United States to arrange a possible meeting between Secretary Shultz and another delegation of Palestinians. The United States wanted to wait until after the PNC session to see whether there was a basis for continuing the dialogue with the Palestinians.

Our correspondent reports that the Americans are of the opinion that UN Resolution 181 is out of the question as a basis for a dialogue. As for Resolution 242, the formulation adopted by the PLO does not meet its requirements which call for a clearer recognition of Israel.

Nevertheless, contacts have been going on, through Egypt among others, and a way may be found to hold the meeting. The PLO wants to include Akram Haniyah, who was deported from Israel, and Dr Nabil Sha'th in the delegation, but the United States objects to them because Israel would see this as some sort of provocation.

The United States believes that the meeting should be held with "leaders who are not defined as PLO men." Other Palestinian figures from the territories will travel to Washington next week for a round of lectures and performances in the United States as guests of the Palestinian lobby in Washington.

PNC 'Secretly Decided' To Form Government

TA2211105888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Nov 88 p 12

[Report by Menahem Shalev, Kenneth Kaplan, and agencies]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday that Egypt "has deviated from its Camp David commitments" in recognizing the Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

The full diplomatic significance of Egypt's recognition of the PLO state remains unclear. An Egyptian government source said yesterday the question of whether to set up a Palestinian embassy in Cairo would not arise until a provisional government is established.

Among resolutions taken by the Palestinian council is formation of such a government as soon as possible. That task was assigned to the PLO Executive Committee.

Sources in Jerusalem said that there were some indications the PNC has secretly decided to set up a provisional government, and that some of its members were Palestinians from the West Bank and from Israel proper.

West Bank Palestinian sources were sceptical about the reports. And Israeli Arab leaders said that the "Israeli Arabs" probably referred to one of several PLO notables who had left the country and given up their citizenship a decade or more ago, such as the poet Mahmud Darwish, whose family lives in the Galilee.

Rabin: PNC Failed To Achieve Main Goals

TA2211075588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] The IDF will keep as many troops as necessary in the territores, says Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The PNC, he says, managed to attain a certain achievement, but not the main goals it set out for itself. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe spoke to Minister Rabin:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] According to the defense minister, the PNC resolutions should be examined in the context of the level of political activity on the one hand and the terrorist activity from Lebanon and the violent acts in the territories on the other.

[Rabin] On the political level, they have attained a certain achievement—namely, recognition by several countries of their alleged independence declaration. In my opinion, however, they did not attain the main goals they had set for themselves.

No Western, European, or any serious country recognized the state; neither did the United States, which responded rather coldly, in accordance with the traditional U.S. positions.

[Menashe] The main goals of the political activity were not attained, at least not yet. As for terrorist activity from Lebanon, all such attempts were, are, and will be foiled.

[Rabin] As for the violent activity in the territories, they did not manage to provide a violent expression to back up the political move on the days they designated for such activity. In my opinion, they failed totally.

[Menashe] Our goals, adds Minister Rabin, are to maintain the level of activity while continuing to deploy relatively large forces and to operate the way we have for some time, in order to turn their failure into a prolonged one.

[Rabin] If you realize that in Lebanon, from the beginning of 1983—approximately 6 months after the outbreak of the war there—until the beginning of 1985, we were able to keep a force which at its lowest point was almost a third larger than the maximum number of troops currently deployed in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, you will understand that these are not very large forces.

[Menashe] Meaning that we can cope?

[Rabin] We must cope. [end recording]

Government 'Disagrees' With Europe Over PNC

TA2211114088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry spokesman says that Israel disagrees with its European friends who expressed their appreciation of the Algiers resolutions.

The spokesman said that the EC resolutions do not stand the test of reality, in the wake of remarks made by PLO leaders after the PNC convention. [passage omitted]

Shamir: No Delay on Tabah Over Egyptian Move

TA2211103688 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Nov 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar, Shefi Gabay, Mikhal Peleg, and agencies]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated last night that Israel would not cause any delay in the implementation of the arbitration ruling on Tabah due to Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian proclamation of independence in Algiers.

"Egypt's support of the resolutions adopted in Algiers has nothing to do with the arbitration ruling on Tabah. At this point, Israel's reaction will remain on the diplomatic level, although we will hold discussions on the significance of Egypt's recognition of the Algiers resolutions. We will remain committed to the Camp David accords, which state that the final status of the territories is to be determined in negotiations," the prime minister told MA'ARIV.

Earlier, Mr Shamir said it was absolutely impossible to establish a third state in addition to the two—one Arab and one Jewish—already existing in the region that was once part of the Ottoman Empire. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Demand To Vacate Tabah 'at Once' Rejected

TA2211112888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 88 p 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Differences of opinion have emerged in the talks Israel and Egypt have been holding in Washington with the mediation of Abraham Sofaer, the State Department's legal adviser.

A senior political source told HA'ARETZ last night that Israel has rejected Egypt's demand to vacate the Tabah area at once, concurrently with the placement of the border markers according to the arbitration ruling and the discussions over the delineation of the borderline from marker No 91 to the seashore.

Egypt is demanding that negotiations on the implementation of the Tabah ruling start only after the Sonesta Hotel and the Rafi Nelson Resort Village have been vacated.

Nevertheless, Egypt reiterated its agreement to ease border crossing procedures from Israel into Tabah and to leave 49 percent of the hotel's shares and the management of the installations to the Israeli owners.

Senior sources in the Likud said yesterday that in view of Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state, which constitutes a violation of the Camp David accords, the Likud will demand that Israel proceed "by the book" on the Tabah dispute.

They pointed out that the letter of arbitration does not include a timetable for the completion of the contacts on the implementation of the arbitration ruling.

The Inner Cabinet has not yet completed the deliberations it began over a month ago on the arbitration ruling. It is expected to hold the concluding debate under the cloud of a crisis in relations due to Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state.

IDF To Investigate Soldiers' 'Rampage' in Camp

TA2211110188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Nov 88 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Soldiers smashed windows of cars and homes and overturned a vehicle at the Qalandiyah refugee camp north of Jerusalem after a bus they were riding in was stoned late Sunday night.

OC [Officer Commanding] Central Command 'Amram Mitzna' ordered army investigators to conduct a thorough inquiry into the incident and report the results directly to him.

A decision on legal steps will be taken in accordance with the findings of the investigation, a military spokesman said. The IDF takes a "very grave" view of any vandalization of property by troops, the spokesman added.

According to Qalandiyah residents, soldiers went on the rampage at about 10 p.m., after stones were thrown at their vehicle. Windshields and lights of several cars were smashed, tyres were punctured, and one car was turned on its side.

Soldiers searching for the stone-throwers burst into homes, breaking doors and windows, vandalizing furniture, and beating occupants, according to the reports.

An initial investigation of the incident found that the soldiers involved had not been stationed at Qalandiyah, but belonged to a regular army unit that had recently completed its service in the territories.

In Janin, soldiers riding a bus that was stoned got off the vehicle and rounded up dozens of youths in the area for questioning, ITIM reported. The detainees were ordered to sit on the ground and surrender their ID cards, and were later released.

A settler from Qarne Shomron was held and questioned by police after opening fire in Qalqilyah when his car was stoned. No casualties were reported. Settlers in the area reported a rise in attacks on their cars in recent days. [passage omitted]

A curfew was also imposed on the Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah, following demonstrations and clashes Sunday night, during which an Israeli bus was stoned and a passenger hurt. Palestinians said demonstrators had been marking the PLO's declaration of independence.

Independence celebrations have been reported over the past week at a number of West Bank villages where the IDF does not maintain a regular presence.

Palestinians reported three persons wounded by gunfire yesterday and Sunday night during IDF raids on villages in the Ramallah area. None of the casualties were confirmed by the IDF. Raids were also reported south of Bethlehem.

Joshua Brilliant adds:

Three teenagers were shot and wounded by troops in scattered clashes in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Earlier a hand grenade was hurled at an IDF patrol, but caused no damage or injuries. [passage omitted]

[In a report on page two by Dani Rubinstein and Dani Tzidqoni, Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 22 November adds that "five people were wounded in incidents in the Gaza Strip yesterday." The casualties include "12-year-old 'Adil Fathi al-Salim, who was seriously wounded in

the back by a plastic bullet and was taken to Ahali Hospital, and a 12 year old from Gaza's Zaytun neighborhood, who was wounded in the eye by a rubber bullet."

The report adds that "the presidium of the Gaza Strip Bar Association decided to return to work to represent only security prisoners and detainees, thus partially terminating its 11-month strike."]

Further on Casualties, IDF Raids in Territories

IDF Confirms Casualties 20 Nov

TA2111120988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Nov 88 p 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] A Palestinian was killed and two others wounded yesterday as the IDF mounted fresh raids on West Bank villages, making arrests and ordering residents to remove flags and paint over nationalist slogans.

In two stoning attacks on Israeli buses, three Israelis were slightly hurt.

Palestinians said Yusuf 'Abdallah, 22, was fatally shot in the head while standing in an olive grove at the village of Baqa al-Hatab, west of Nabulus. Troops who raided the village opened fire after villagers hurled rocks at them, according to the Palestinian reports. A 16-year-old was wounded in the shoulder.

The IDF confirmed the casualties, but said it was checking circumstances of the incident.

In other clashes yesterday, a 17-year-old from the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp near Nabulus was wounded in the hand. Military sources said troops opened fire after rocks were thrown at vehicles on the Nabulus-Janin road. [passage omitted]

The Al-Ittihad Nisa'i Hospital in Nabulus admitted six villagers from Madama with injuries from beatings, and reports from the village said close to 20 were hurt.

Reports from the village said soldiers vandalized furniture in at least two homes, and knocked down a stone terrace with a bulldozer.

The IDF confirmed that troops had raided the village, but said it had no reports of injuries.

At Qarawat Bani Hasan, southwest of Nabulus, troops imposed a curfew, searched homes, and disconnected loudspeakers in mosques, according to Palestinian reports. Close to 100 people were reported arrested in the raid which followed protracted clashes Saturday in which five villagers were shot and wounded. [passage omitted]

Joshua Brilliant adds:

In the Gaza Strip yesterday, five Palestinians were shot and wounded and at least nine others were reported injured from beatings, according to local hospital sources. The incidents took place in Gaza, Jabalyah, Al-Nusayrat and Khan Yunus.

An IDF spokesman confirmed only one injury. He said a 15-year-old Palestinian took part in a "disturbance" in the Jabalyah refugee camp, and was hit by a plastic bullet.

A Palestinian reporter said the five people shot yesterday sustained leg or thigh injuries. [passage omitted]

2 Youths Wounded in Gaza Camp

TA2111185188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Two youths were wounded in the Al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza this afternoon. Their condition is described as good to fair. One of the youths, aged 15, suffered a thigh injury; the other, aged 17, was wounded in his left leg. The two were transferred to Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. This is reported by our correspondent in the south 'Ezra Yanuv.

Youth Shot by IDF in Tulkarm

TA2111230188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] This afternoon a 15-year-old youth from the Tulkarm refugee camp was wounded by IDF soldiers' shots during incidents of stone throwing. He was transferred to a local hospital and later to Nabulus.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF imposed a curfew on the refugee camp and blocked its entrances with earthen barriers.

Palestinian Detainees Released in West Bank

TA2111123288 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 19 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Yesterday the Israeli military authorities released some 100 Palestinian detainees throughout the West Bank. These detainees were arrested by the Israeli forces within the framework of the special raids conducted by them during the week prior to the PNC's convocation.

Scientific Cooperation Accord Signed With Hungary

TA1811184288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] The first scientific cooperation agreement between Israel and Hungary was signed at the Weizmann Institute of Science. The agreement was signed by the

President of the Weizmann Institute and the head of the Radiobiology Research Institute at the Academy of Sciences in Hungary, who is now visiting Israel.

According to the agreement, the two institutes will encourage joint scientific research, visits by scientists, and student exchanges.

Agreement Signed on Exports Via Thailand
TA2211111688 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Nov 88 p 3

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Schubert]

[Excerpt] Israel will export electromedical equipment to Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei through Thai agents. This agreement was reached in the course of a visit by Israeli exporters to Thailand and Singapore this month. The delegation was organized by Israel Exports Institute. [passage omitted]

[In a report by Mikhal Rave on page two, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 22 November adds that "the total value of the deals amounts to $1.75 million."]

New Arabic-Language Weekly Published 20 Nov
TA2111122788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Nov 88 p 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah yesterday renewed publication of a weekly, AL-USBU' AL-JADID (THE NEW WEEK), a review of politics and society. The weekly ceased publication five years ago.

The first edition of the pro-PLO publication carried stories on the Palestine National Council and the elections in Israel, and an editorial expressing pessimism on immediate peace prospects in view of Israeli political developments.

King Receives Mubarak, 'Arafat Phone Calls

JN2111191588 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a telephone conversation with His Majesty King Husayn this evening. The two leaders exchanged views on the latest developments in the Arab arena and bilateral relations.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat also held a telephone conversation from Cairo with His Majesty King Husayn. He exchanged views with his majesty on the latest developments and thanked His Majesty King Husayn for Jordan's support for the PLO and the fraternal Palestinian people's cause.

His Majesty King Husayn also congratulated Yasir 'Arafat on the results of the PNC and the positive resolutions issued by the PNC. He stressed Jordan's full support for the PLO and the pan-Arab march in supporting the Palestinian Arab people in achieving their national goals.

Yasir 'Arafat had praised His Majesty King Hysayn's interview with CBS yesterday. Following his arrival in Cairo today, 'Arafat said: On this occasion, I would like to express deep gratitude for the splendid statement his majesty made to the U.S. television network explaining the Palestinian position on peace and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He added that he would discuss with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak the joint concept of an effective move to convene an international conference to bring about comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. He will also acquaint President Mubarak with PNC resolutions passed in Algiers last week.

King Visits General Command; Reviews Situation

JN2111200588 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, visited the Armed Forces General Command yesterday afternoon. He was received by Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Staff General Fathi Abu Talib, the Armed Forces chief of staff; the commander of the Royal Air Force; and the inspector general of the Armed Forces.

His majesty, the supreme commander, held a meeting with the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Then he met with senior Armed Forces officers and discussed some issues of interest to the Armed Forces.

His Majesty King Husayn reviewed developments in the Arab arena, the challenges facing the Arab system as a whole, and Jordan's efforts to confront these challenges. His majesty also reviewed the economic situation in our region and its effects on our domestic situation.

He added: We will certainly overcome the current stage because we always overcome difficulties as a result of the awareness, determination, and cooperation of the sons of the one family.

His majesty also noted Jordan's achievements over the years and stressed that these achievements were made through our people's determination to make sacrifices under all circumstances through which our country has passed.

He also praised the Jordanian citizen—our dearest possession—and said he is the one who builds, confronts the challenges, adapts himself to the needs of the current situation, and finally achieves the desired goals and the progress in which we take pride.

King Leaves for Damascus on 'Working' Visit

JN2211112988 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Damascus today on a working visit to Syria. His majesty the king will hold talks with President Hafiz al-Asad in the framework of consultations and coordination between the two Arab leaders.

His majesty was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, members of the Royal Hashemite family as well as top civic and military officials.

His majesty the king is accompanied by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the Royal Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah.

Israeli Reports of Cabinet Resignation Denied

JN2111182788 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] An authorized official source has stated the following:

Israeli radio reported repeatedly in its news broadcasts today that the Jordanian government has resigned. The report is part of a campaign of suspect rumors whose motives are quite well known to Jordnian officials as a result of Jordan's constant, pan-Arab stands led by His Majesty King Husayn.

The authorized official source would like to categorically deny the report.

AL-RA'Y on Israel's 'Campaign'

JN2211092188 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
22 Nov 88 p 1

["A Word" column by "the editor": "No to Radio Israel and No to the Newspaper AL-SIYASAH"]

[Text] We are not surprised by the current suspect campaign launched by Radio Israel and the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH against Jordan and its leadership and government.

We are also not surprised by their fabricated reports and false rumors about the resignation of the Jordanian Government.

This campaign is being launched at a time when Jordan under His Majesty King Husayn adheres to its pan-Arab stands and insists on its principles, the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

The campaign also coincides with Jordan's rejection and foiling of the Shultz initiative through its adherence to the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, especially their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil.

The campaign comes after Jordan's announcement of its historic decision to disengage its legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank, responding to the PLO wish and in line with Arab consensus.

It coincides with our leader's continued brave defense of the Palestinian Arab people's rights and the PNC decision to accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which is more than one can expect from the PLO.

It also coincides with the consolidation of brotherly relations between Jordan and the PLO, especially after Jordan's recognition of the independent Palestinian state.

Perhaps these brave stands have disturbed the Zionist enemy's radio and the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, which gave the hostile mass media a news item with which to distort Jordan's stands, influence its policy, and plan against it.

However, we tell AL-SIYASAH, its owner, and the Zionist enemy's radio that Jordan adheres to its stands and that its Hashemite leadership cannot be frightened by rumors and cannot be weakened by plots, maneuvers, and pressures.

Jordan adheres to its pan-Arab stands and Arab orientation.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Praises Husayn CBS Interview

JN2111124688 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
21 Nov 88 p 1

[Editorial: "King Husayn's Interview and Requirements of a Just Peace"]

[Text] Within the context of the historic role led by His Majesty King Husayn to serve, defend, and support the Arab cause and the Palestine question in all forums, His Majesty addressed the U.S. public opinion through the U.S. Television network CBS and its renowned program "Face the Nation."

King Husayn was the first to support the Palestinian stand using the notable status he enjoys in international circles and world public opinion.

Proceeding from the position taken by King Husayn to give practical support to the Palestine question, Jordan responded by severing links with the occupied West Bank and therefore enabling the PLO, sole representative of the Palestinian people, to concern itself solely with Palestinian affairs.

The PNC resolutions have explicitly expressed their response to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace through UN Resolutions 242 and 338 which form the basis for a full and just peaceful settlement through an international peace conference with full powers.

Thus, the PNC acceptance of the above-mentioned UN resolutions is clear and there is no room to claim that it is ambiguous. This acceptance forms a challenge to Israel to abandon its continued intransigence and rejection of peace in the area.

There are several reasons for the United States' biased stand toward the extremist Israeli position. However, if the Israeli wager has continued for a long time due to this stand, then this wager may not be guaranteed due to the new facts established by the uprising, Arab adherence to peace principles, and the new role that can be played by the administration of President-elect George Bush.

Israel has deceived the world, including the United States, into believing that Palestinians do not want peace and that their representatives do not recognize the UN resolutions calling for a peaceful settlement.

The Israelis have also decieved these countries into believing their interpretation of the Camp David accords themselves. These interpretations are incorrect and cannot reflect the provisions of the accords as understood by Egypt or even the United States who are parties to the accords and who have the right to interpret them.

If the Arab position on just and comprehensive peace which leads to the national rights of the Palestinian people is now unanimous through the recent PNC resolutions in Algiers and is largely backed by several international circles which have welcomed the PNC resolutions, supported them, and recognized the Palestinian state, then this consensus forms a successful peace offensive, which has besieged Israel and made it fumble as indicated by hardline statements calling for further violence and continuation of hostile occupation policies.

Advocates of a just and comprehensive peace who stand on the side of the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative in the call for achieving the legitimate and national rights of Palestinians believe that there is no difference between the peace positions which they requested and what the PLO has reached now.

The Palestine question cannot be discussed without the participation of the Palestinians. They are ready to move and they have taken all the required steps. It is time others did the same.

It is obvious now that it is Israeli instransigence which threatens the peace prospects. Some countries consider this some kind of a loss of balance and a waste of peace opportunities that may not return.

The loss of these opportunities may lead to disasters for which Israel and the supporters of its policies will be totally responsible.

'Awn Addresses Citizens on Independence Day

NC2111203988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Address by 'Prime Minister' General Michel 'Awn on Independence Day; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] O Lebanese, whether in Lebanon or abroad, residents or expatriates: While I ask myself in what capacity am I addressing you? I can feel that you, yourselves, are wondering what I am going to tell you at a time when the 45th independence anniversary has, itself, turned into a big question mark, confused the minds, and lost on most of the land amid the hegemony, occupation, (?debasement), and humiliation.

As for myself, I am only the head of a transitional government, about which some say it must govern, some believe it must not, and others view it in between.

In the meantime, the conspiracy directed against you continues, seeking to force you to yield more rights and dignities, exhaust more energy, and weaken and (?fragment) more pillars, structures, and institutions.

This is how we reached the current unprecedented situation in which everything, whether temporary or transient, permanent or perpetual, has become exceptional, and where we have turned into the residents of a modern Babylonian tower.

Neither the independence nor the talk about sovereignty means what they imply any longer. Meanwhile, those who raise the slogans of unity and unification cause more partition and disunity. Not only that, but it seems as if there were a consensus to ignore reasons, belittle logic, and falsify reality.

The criminal blames the victim for his murder, just like the harlot who doubts the motherhood of a mother or the holiness and purity of a sincere worshipper. In the meantime, those who truly work for liberation, sovereignty, and unification are accused of agentry, opportunism, and desiring partition.

O Lebanese: It is true that we are a transitional government whose duty is to supervise presidential elections. However, I do not think you would ask us to bring a president who would give away what remained of your homeland, but a president who would regain what has been taken away and what has been lost.

Do we need submission to the foreign wills, which agree on expediting the election of a hostage president, so that we would be like one giving false testimony about a shot of mercy fired at the head of the homeland?

Do we need to bring about a conditional reforms for a helpless people who are not allowed to express their opinion on their own reforms and who are prohibited from openly expressing loyalty to their land, state, and identity? Where is the homeland that could select a president for all of Lebanon?

Is it in the border strip, at the shock absorbers [waqiyat al-sadm] in western Al-Biqa', in the Syrian-controlled areas, or on the land where the crossing points and shelters permeate humility and submission?

Perhaps we need a president who governs the torn people with barricades of sandbags and demarcation lines and roadblocks dividing the one homeland and separating the same people?

Or, perhaps, we need a president for the homeland for those who blackmail the people the way they blackmail the [Lebanese] communities in Africa, the two Americas, Europe, and Australia to enjoy the fruits of their deeds in Europe's resorts and places of entertainment.

We want a president for whom? Do we need him for the Al-Shuf, which has been abandoned; Sidon, which is besieged; Tripoli, which is steadfast although it has been wronged; Ba'labakk, which is missing the signs of pride during its international festivals; or Beirut, which fraternal Arab missions were compelled to leave before foreign diplomatic representatives were also forced to leave?

O Lebanese, we want to regain the homeland first and foremost. The time to fail to announce one's convictions is over. The policy of deceit and speculation vis-a-vis the taboo sanctities is over. They have disdained and misled us enough.

We more than put up with them in disdaining ourselves, forgetting our interests, and conceding our will, after they made us believe that our crisis is limited to a port, crossing point, department, and store.

Remove the mask of illusion which they put on you. Come, let us declare what we believe in, with the courage of one who has right on his side, the strength of the master, and the will of the believer.

We believe in a one Lebanon, with full sovereignty and independence, that has no partner on its land, no guardian over its decision, and no censor over its freedom. We believe in a sovereign Lebanon that deals with others on the basis of mutual interest and equality, and refuses to involve them in its interests, decisions, and land.

We believe in a Lebanon that belongs to its Arab environment, in history and fate, and a Lebanon that would serve as a messenger of cultural interaction between its environment and the wider world. We believe in a free citizen who enjoys equal rights and duties with all his brothers.

We believe in a citizen who enjoys his right for a security which reassures him about his family, livelihood, and future. We believe in a citizen who is proud of his identity, which, in itself, is proud of him and is not a cause for slaying or persecuting him.

We want an identity which will regain the prestige it has lost as a result of the issuance of passports to narcotics smugglers and to those who brand the image of their homeland with shame and terrorism.

We believe in a free, democratic, parliamentary system based on meeting the needs of its sons and not on further impoverishing the poor and making the rich richer.

We believe in a free economy which will release individual initiative and restrain exploitation of the consumer, an economy which will restore our pound to its glory—our pound which has now dropped to a tiny fraction of its former worth.

All this because of the drought which was imposed on us by the wars of the hard fists and the hungry stomachs which invaded us, coveting our resources and wealth. This situation will only end when they are removed from our land.

O Lebanese, questions do not liberate a land, the declaration of faith does not regain sovereignty, and you do not build a bright future by ignoring dark reality. Only willpower and work can open the way and enable us to build. What do we want, and what we will do?

With all simplicity, sincerity, and determination, we want our complete and undiminished right in our homeland. With the same simplicity, sincerity, and determination, we are no longer prepared to endure further experiments and tests, deceptive and evasive promises, and the policy of supply and demand.

Our people, our land, and our dignity are not goods that can be sold or mortgaged in any regional or international market.

Perhaps the past 15 years, with all the evils they brought, were sufficient for those who wanted to show their good intentions, just as they were sufficient for us to form our firm national convictions.

For all these reasons, and out of our conviction that what we believe in and want is what all our people believe in and want throughout Lebanon and abroad, and on the basis of this conviction, belief, and will, we declare our determination to utilize all of our resources and our brotherly and friendly international relationships to bring about the liberation of our homeland and to end the humiliation of our people.

We also declare that we will resist politically, economically, and militarily any occupation presence that violates our sovereignty over our land. We also declare the resurrection of a strong, united Lebanon from the debris of their feeble, sectarian Lebanons.

Where the occupation and the usurpation of our sovereignty and decisionmaking power are concerned, all are enemies and resistance is the duty of everyone against all comers. With this decision we declare the end of the grace period for examinations, because the examiners themselves are now in need of testing on the regaining of credibility, the declaration of aims, and the definition of convictions.

We have dropped the hostage mentality, just as the fig leaf has dropped, revealing the faults of some of the advocates of friendship, brotherhood, and backing.

O Lebanese, it is the destiny of your homeland to be sovereign, free, and independent. The right of this homeland's people to sovereignty, freedom, and independence is sacred and inalienable. We are of this people and of this homeland and for Lebanon's glory. Long live Lebanon.

Al-Huss Makes Address

NC2111124288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Address by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss on Independence Day—read by announcer]

[Text] We said before and continue to say that this crisis will end because every crisis in history has had its end, and its events and repulsive qualities will die down with the passage of time.

This crisis will end due to our national and humanitarian values and because none of us has an alternative.

This crisis has dragged on because all plots have failed. Had one of these plots succeeded, the crisis would have ended in accordance with the whimsical schemes of the plotters.

We will ride out the crisis when Lebanon has been liberated from Israeli occupation. The martyr heroes have proven that the willpower of the Lebanese resistance is invincible.

We will over come the ordeal when the freedom of man in Lebanon has been secured. You can see that the devout citizens in the factory, shop, and office, in the school, mosque, and hospital, and in the field, port, and workshop testify that Lebanon will be healthy as long as the people in it are healthy.

We will overcome the deadlock when Lebanon's unity is in safe hands. It would be devastating to end the crisis at the expense of the homeland's unity. We will not salvage Lebanon by fragmenting it. Lebanon would be fragmented by a partitionist formula or by decentralization or federalism.

We know that the war will not end by Lebanon's partition. We are rather confident that any plan to partition Lebanon will not end the war, but is instead bound to change the face of the war from a struggle over a formula into a war over boundaries.

The failure of the scheme to partition the homeland was due to the heterogeneous population, which stood fast in the face of waves of mass evacuations during the war.

The scheme also failed to spark off endless disputes over localities and streets in cities or over the hills, roads, and villages in every area.

Therefore, we reiterate that if the unity of Lebanon is difficult, then its partition would be impossible. This fact generates persistent efforts to involve this country in the 100-year war.

We will ride out our ordeal with the right of man in his homeland and the right for freedom, equality, and justice established. This is because discrimination is synonymous with oppression, and oppression is opposed to stability and peace.

We will overcome the ordeal when Lebanon's Arabism has been secured and its fraternal relations with fraternal Syria have been consolidated.

Syria's Talas Meets Military, Political Figures

NC2111183988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas, who arrived in Beirut today, has inspected the Syrian forces' positions. He was accompanied by Major General 'Ali Arsalan, deputy chief of staff; and Maj Gen Sa'id Bayraqdar.

At the Summerland Hotel [in West Beirut], the Syrian military delegation met with Army Commander Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib; Brig Gen Ghazi Kan'an [head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon]; Brig Gen 'Ali Hammud [Head of Syrian observers in Lebanon]; and 'Asim Qansuh [secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon]; Elie Hubayqah [former commander of the Lebanese Forces]; 'Abdallah al-Amin; and Abu 'Ali Mahdi Busaysu.

Attacks Upon PLO Leaders Anticipated

NC2011064788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Sources loyal to the PLO anticipate that assassination attempts will be carried out in Lebanon against a number of leaders of the Palestinian factions and fronts who attended the PNC session in Algiers.

The sources pointed out that the aim of such attempts would be to create a state of tension, particularly in southern Lebanon.

Roadblock at Crossing Prompts W. Beirut Clash

NC2111123188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] This morning, two civilians were wounded in a clash between Amal gunmen and members of the pro-Syrian Ba'th party at the Al-Barbir crossing point. The incident caused confusion and panic among the citizens, many of whom sought refuge in East Beirut.

An armed alert in the two conflicting groups impeded traffic at the said crossing. According to security sources, the fighting came after the Ba'th party elements set up a roadblock at the crossing and levied tolls on 1 percent of the value of goods carried by trucks and other vehicles into the eastern area.

They also levied a 4 percent toll on the vehicles traversing the crossing into West Beirut. The Ba'th personnel were instructed to do this by 'Asim Qansuh [regional secretary of the Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon] and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon]

Fate of Amal Leader Unknown After Explosion

NC2111135088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] According to reports received from Al-Biqa', an explosion took place in Ba'labakk this afternoon. The target was the car of Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement.

The reports add that although Al-Musawi was inside the car at the time of the explosion, his fate is not yet known.

Hizballah Officials Target of Car Bomb

NC2111152888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] According to security sources, a car bomb exploded on the road leading to the city of Ba'labakk this afternoon, but there were no casualties.

The sources said that a Volkswagen station wagon, which was parked near Al-Khadr village, on the road leading to Ba'labakk, exploded, causing a fire.

The Syrian forces in the area laid a security cordon around the scene of the explosion.

Quoting these sources, REUTER said that a seven-car motorcade transporting Hizballah officials, who have not been identified, turned back after the explosion.

The sources added that the motorcade was approximately 150 meters from the car when it exploded.

Other security sources said that the Hizballah delegation included Shaykh Hasan al-Tufayli, 'Abbas al-Musawi, Hasan Nasrallah, Ibrahim al-Amin, and Hasan Khalil.

3 Injured in Explosion

NC2111160288 Paris AFP in English 1536 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Beirut, Nov 21 (AFP)—A car-bomb explosion in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon, aimed at leaders of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite militia Hizballah, left three people injured Monday, Hizballah officials said.

Police reported that a van packed with TNT exploded on a road leading to the Al-Biqa' Valley town of Ba'labakk, 75 kilometres (45 miles) northeast of here.

Hizballah officials said the blast occurred as a convoy of cars was passing by. The two Hizballah leaders in the convoy were not named.

Two of their bodyguards and a woman passer-by were injured, the officials said, and one of the cars was damaged.

The Supreme Islamic Council, highest body of Lebanon's Shi'ite community, meanwhile called on Bahrain to release Shaykh 'Abdallah Gharifi, head of the Shi'ite religious properties department in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The council has said Shaykh Gharifi was arrested in the UAE and handed over to the Bahrain authorities.

Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the spiritual guide of Hizballah, also urged the prisoner's release, warning both Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates against "any attempt to life" of Shaykh Gharifi.

Informed sources in the Gulf say Shaykh Gharifi was serving as a special representative of Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in the Emirates.

The shaykh has been "kidnapped", the sources said, without giving an exact date for his disappearance. The Supreme Islamic Council raised the alarm that he was missing on Friday.

There has been no official comment from the UAE or Bahrain on the reports that Shaykh Gharifi has been arrested.

'Sources' Identify Officials

NC2111183388 Paris AFP in English 1829 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Nov 21 (AFP)—Two leaders of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Moslem militia Hizballah escaped unhurt after a car-bomb attack Monday targeting their convoy of vehicles in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon, security sources said.

The militia said two bodyguards and a woman passer-by were wounded in the attack that took place on a road leading to the Al-Biqa' valley town of Ba'labakk, 75 kilometres (45 miles) northeast of Beirut.

A van packed with TNT exploded on the roadside as the Hizballah convoy of cars was passing by, police said.

Security sources identified the two senior officials as Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah's leader for the Al-Biqa' region, and Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin.

The blast occurred less than two kilometres (one mile) from barracks of the pro-Syrian Amal militia, Hizballah's main Shi'ite rivals. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Issues Statement

NC2211074388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Yesterday the criminals tried once again with their blood-stained hands to harm a number of Islamic leaders. Their aim was to weaken Muslims and divide their ranks and to provide the opportunity for Zionists and crusaders to infilterate into the heart of Muslim areas once again. [passage omitted]

The motorcade conveying the brother leaders, the eminent Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, 'Abbas al-Musawi, Hasan Nasrallah, Ibrahim al-Amin, and brother Hajj Husayn al-Khalil was heading for Ba'labakk.

At about 1300 yesterday, when it reached the northern city of Al-Sifri, a booby-trapped car rigged with approximately 150 kg of TNT exploded. The explosion damaged the first car in the motorcade and wounded two brother companions.

The brother leaders were not wounded. A woman passing by was also wounded.

According to security sources in Hizballah, the booby-trapped car was an orange Volkswagon.

Hizballah has issued a statement in the Al-Biqa' outlining the evil assassination attempt and stating that this aggression uncovers the malicious intentions harbored by those who are planning malevolent schemes.

The spokesman has asserted that this treacherous attempt will not go unpunished. He appealed to all brothers to be patient and not to become involved in any sedition. [passage omitted]

'Tension' After Clashes

NC2211151788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] There were two new security developments this afternoon: First, a clash between Amal and Hizballah in Al-Ghubayrah [in the southern suburb of Beirut] and, second, an Israeli raid on Palestinian positions in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah vicinity.

The Al-Ghubayrah clash took place only hours after yesterday's assassination attempt against Hizballah leaders on the Riyaq-Ba'labbak Road. A state of tension and alert among both sides followed the clash in many parts of the suburb.

Amal-Hizballah Clashes Continue

NC2211160988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah have been raging in the areas of Al-Hajjaj, Al-Musharrafiyah, Al-Muhit, and Al-Ghubayrah in the southern suburb since 1630 today.

All types of rockets and machineguns, as well as antiaircraft weapons, are being used in the fighting. A number of shells have landed in 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

Meanwhile, alerts had been declared and skirmishes had taken place between Amal and Hizballah at a number of approaches to the southern suburb last night within the framework of their power struggle.

In a separate development yesterday, a Hizballah motorcade had been the target of a carbomb explosion yesterday in Al-Sifri, on the Ba'labakk-Riyaq Road.

In another development, reports say that the Airport Road has been closed and that the Amal Movement has accused Hizballah personnel of acts of kidnapping and shooting in the direction of Rawdat al-Shahidayn.

2 Israeli Positions Attacked; Villages Shelled

NC2111145888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] National resistance fighters used machineguns, rockets, and artillery to attack two positions manned by the Israeli occupation forces in 'Alman and Al-Shumariyah at dawn today.

The 40-minute confrontation between the resistance fighters and the occupation troops left a number of casualties in the ranks of the enemy troops. An enemy machinegun emplacement also was destroyed.

The occupation troops responded by shelling the villages of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, and the banks of the Al-Litani River for 1 hour, but only property damage was caused.

Israeli Aircraft Attack Palestinian Positions

Helicopters, Jets Used

NC2211140788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] An Israeli warplane formation raided positions south of 'Ayn al-Hulwah at 1505 this afternoon. Helicopters and jet planes are now circling Sidon. The security reports do not mention the results of this savage raid.

Gunboats Bombard Area

NC2211143388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided the areas of Sidon and 'Ayn al-Hulwah at approximately 1530 this afternoon.

In the meantime, Israeli gunboats bombarded the area. The bombardment was concentrated on Tallat Sirub, the new Al-Hizbah crossorad, the vicinity of Lebanese University, and the southeastern approach to 'Ayn al-Hulwah, where the Palestinian positions exist.

Security sources have informed us that several persons were killed or wounded in the area.

'At Least' 9 Casualties

NC2211152388 Paris AFP in English 1520 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, Nov 22 (AFP)—Israeli war planes bombed Palestinian positions east of here Tuesday, killing at least three people and injuring six, Palestinian sources said.

Military sources in Jerusalem said Israeli aircraft struck "terrorist" bases in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah region of southern Lebanon that had been used to mount attacks on Israel.

Six planes, backed by helicopters, staged three raids near the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp near this southern Lebanese port city, which is home to an estimated 100,000 Palestinians, according to Palestinian sources.

Ambulances rushed to the scene of the mid-afternoon attack, which sent dozens of families fleeing out of the camp in the direction of Sidon.

Palestinian sources said a two-storey building belonging to Force 17—former bodyguards for Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat—was destroyed, as was a position held by the camp's security unit.

Palestinian ground forces fired off a surface-to-air SAM 7 missile and turned anti-aircraft fire on the attacking planes, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives; Talks Begin

JN2211120088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Damascus at noon today on a visit to the country. Leading those welcoming him at the airport was His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

He was also received by Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, as well as General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; a number of ministers; and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

His excellency the president and his majesty the king headed an official motorcade to the Presidential Palace.

The Jordanian monarch is accompanied by a delegation comprising Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah.

Talks between His Excellency President President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn began at 1230 at a meeting at the Presidential Palace attended by Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah.

Former Lebanese President Franjiyah Arrives

JN2111140188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1230 today former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and his son Robert Franjiyah.

President Franjiyah arrived in Damascus at 1000 this morning accompanied by his son, Robert Franjiyah, on a visit to the country. He was received at the northern entrance of Damascus by Presidential Affairs Minister Walid Fadil.

After reviewing the guard of honor, His Excellency President Franjiyah proceeded in an official motorcade to the guest palace.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, President Franjiyah extended his warm congratulations to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian people on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the blessed Corrective Movement.

He said the purpose of his visit to Damascus is to extend congratulations on this occasion to the Syrian people, wishing them progress and prosperity under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Departs With Son

JN2111200188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 nov 88

[Excerpt] Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and his son, Robert, left Damascus at 1645 today. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Current Lebanese Situation

JN2111172788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Warmth has returned to the political atmosphere in Lebanon along with resumed talk about efforts to move Lebanon out of the impasse caused by those who obstructed the presidential elections and encroached upon the freedom of the Chamber of Deputies as a whole and that of all the deputies who were held—deputies whose freedom of movement was restricted and whose personal freedom was taken away.

If the remarks and statements issued in the past few days are true, then all disputing parties first of all reject all forms of partition; second, they reject the abnormal situation in Lebanon due to the civil strife and internal conflict; third, they reject the absence of a president of the Republic and a vacuum in the Chamber of Deputies' speakership, and the presence of two governments.

Without going into further details about the current situation, the reasons for it, those who caused it, or the degree of conformity between the presence of this or that body or institution and legitimacy, the unanimity shown in the statements and remarks means that all the Lebanese, along with their key figures and their so-called leaders, first of all support protecting Lebanon's unity and independence, that is, maintaining a unified lebanon; second, making Lebanon a guarantor of equality and justice among all Lebanese through reforms that should be introduced into the old system although there are differences over the details and extent of such reforms; third, filling the post of president of the Republic by reaching agreement on holding presidential elections and on a president capable of securing the approval and confidence of various parties while helping lead and unleash the national accord process—indispensable for ensuring the success of any genuine step meant to close the book on the abnormal situation from which the Lebanese people are suffering.

This unanimous Lebanese will currently manifested in Lebanon's domestic policy is a necessary prelude to a genuine treatment of all pressing transient issues, such as

the election of a president of the Republic and a Chamber of Deputies speaker as well as the long-term issues such as the reforms that should be introduced into the political system.

This will exposes the truth about the various partitionists and reveals the objectives of by those who work to fragment Lebanon and establish statelets, emirates, and cantons on the grave of a unified Lebanon, which was effective both in its environment and in the world—Lebanon whose sons used to experience coexistence.

This will also pulls the rug from beneath those who hope for solutions and options from overseas and from behind the truce lines.

Those who have made mistakes and who have seen the dead end of their reckless adventures can rectify their mistake by joining the convoy of the Lebanese [words indistinct] the procession of national solution without which Lebanon cannot be saved.

Lebanon has room for all of its sons without dictating any conditions on them apart from being Lebanese patriots who work for Lebanon's unity and independence, coexistence among its sons, liberating Lebanese soil from Israeli occupation, and safeguarding Lebanon's identity, affiliation, and role.

Today, when one hears Lebanese statements to the effect that the names of Lebanese presidential candidates should emanate from Lebanon, he can only expect glad tidings from this. This may also indicate that some Lebanese are convinced of the futility of their previously resorting to foreign forces, seeking the mediation of international forces on domestic affairs, and authorizing outside parties to participate in choosing presidential candidates on their behalf.

When this belief is entrenched, the roadblocks that used to prevent the deputies from meeting and carrying out their national and constitutional responsibility may be removed.

The current Lebanese situation does not allow any group to cancel or dominate the others or to impose its own opinion on other groups regarding the presidency or other issues. This situation requires that the Lebanese attain accord, detente, and understanding.

The winner should be both Lebanon and all the Lebanese—not a party, sect, movement, or body. When the Lebanese converge on the path of national accord and solution, they will find alongside them all the forces that seek Lebanon's unity—land and people—and independence as well as all the forces whose national and pan-Arab interests do not conflict with Lebanon's being an independent state with a unified land and people. Naturally, Syria is foremost among these forces.

Paper on 'Concessions,' 'Illusory Opportunity'

JN2011131188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Nov 88

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that the will to remain steadfast is the only way to regain rights and points out that the pan-Arab dimension of the conflict with the Zionist enemy and the centrality of this conflict in our Arab nation's struggle are two issues that should not be allowed to be argued any longer, as they have become two of the basics of the struggle being waged by the masses of our people and nation.

Besides, the masses of our nation have adhered to the will to struggle and remain steadfast in all sites of confrontation with the Zionist enemy. This adherence has also become a tangible reality embodied daily by the masses of our nation in the acts of resistance being carried out and the sweeping popular uprising being staged in southern Lebanon, the steadfast Golan, and occupied Palestine.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that the course based on making concessions to the enemy increases its leaders' lust for aggression and adds that any delusion harbored to the contrary is no more than a leap in the air.

The Zionist enemy cannot change its stands because of Arab retreat. Furthermore, the Arab retreat before the enemy can never make it recognize the pan-Arab rights of the Arab nation.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Any justifications for making concessions will prove worthless and unconvincing, as the road is clear. The proper thing is to abandon the talk about opportunities, as the pan-Arab cause does not triumph through the exploitation of an illusory opportunity.

Nay, it triumphs through pursuing the course of steadfastness and struggle; through the pursuit of the strategic parity with the enemy, the course which deters the policy of aggression and expansion being pursued by its leaders. We are here talking about the course of forging the nation's will, strengthening that will, escalating the nation's stands, and enabling it to extricate its rights with force and not through begging.

This is the course that has been pursued by steadfast Syria which has been adhering to the constants of the national struggle and which has also been working to establish a strategic parity with the Zionist enemy in order to protect the pan-Arab cause and safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. This is the way to liberate the territories and regain the rights.

Afghanistan

Pakistani Charge Summoned on Downing of Plane

LD2111174288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] A source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned today, 21 November, at 1500 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the following points were conveyed to him by the official in charge of the First Political Department of the Foreign Ministry:

According to the report of the responsible security authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, a civilian Afghan passenger plane, Model No (?26), carrying 22 passengers including women and children and 5 crew members, flying from Kabul to Jalalabad, deviated from its route and requested help from the nearest airport.

Despite repeated calls for help by the pilot, which have been recorded on tape, Pakistani sources, without paying the slightest attention to the pilot's requests and in contravention of the international treaties signed at Montreal, The Hague and [word indistinct], not only failed to assist the Afghan plane, but fired surface-to-air missiles at 0919 on Saturday, 19 November.

This led to the downing of the plane and the martyrdom of all the passengers.

The Republic of Afghanistan strongly condemns the downing of an Afghan civilian airliner by Pakistani authorities, which is in contravention of all human rights norms, international law, and the Geneva agreements, and declares that the responsibility for the grave consequences of this criminal act will rest with Pakistani authorities.

It is requested in the note that Pakistan should immediately return the bodies of the victims to Afghanistan.

Soviet Helicopter Gunship Reportedly Shot Down

LD2211061788 Tehran IRNA in English 0555 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] London, Nov. 22, IRNA—A Soviet helicopter gunship was shot down in Gailan [placename as received] in Ghazni Province of Afghanistan by a mujahidin missile on 9 November while bombing mujahidin positions, the resistance news service. [sentence as received]

AGENCE AFGHAN PRESS said all four crew members were killed.

In another development APP said a bomb went off in the offices of Jamiyat-e Eslami Party, one of the groups in the mujahidin alliance, in Panjshir Valley, killing a security guard and destroying the ammunition depot.

Another bomb in the bazaar of Teri Mangal, a small Pakistani border town, destroyed three arms shops.

MiG-27's Bomb Qandahar Hospital 'by Mistake'

BK2211112088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1031 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Nov 22 (AFP) - Some 100 people, including Afghan soldiers, doctors and nurses, were killed when Soviet-supplied MiG-27 jets bombed a military hospital in the southern city of Qandahar by mistake last week, resistance sources said Tuesday.

The sources said the newly-supplied MiG-27 jets dropped bombs on the hospital in the Qandahar suburbs on November 14, killing about 100 people including wounded soldiers and hospital staff.

The MiG's had meant to carry out a reprisal raid against Afghan resistance, or mujahidin guerrillas following increased shelling of Qandahar airport but they hit the hospital by mistake, the sources added.

The resistance sources said more than 1,000 Soviet troops had been flown in to southern Qandahar Monday night by transport planes.

Western diplomats here said Tuesday that there was continued fighting around Qandahar.

Qandahar airport remained closed for civilian flights, the diplomats said.

On the eve of the hospital bombing, the diplomats said mujahidin guerrillas attacked an Afghan regime post at Topkhana bazaar in the city, destroying one armoured vehicle and capturing three soldiers. [passage omitted]

3 Afghans Arrested for Spying for CIA

LD2111131088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Afghan State Security Ministry organs recently arrested three Afghan nationals spying for the U.S. espionage organization, the CIA.

The spies were engaged in espionage activities in Afghanistan in the interest of the United States.

The U.S. charge d'affaires in Kabul today, 20 November, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry over this.

The Afghan Government conveyed to him a strong protest over the U.S. interference in Afghan internal affairs.

Mujahidin Inflict 'Heavy Losses' on Kabul Forces

BK2111164888 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have carried out further successful operations in various provinces, inflicting heavy losses in men and material on Kabul regime's troops.

In an attack on military installations in Nangarhar Province, the mujahidin destroyed an ammunition depot. In another operation on the Jalalabad-Towr Kham road, they destroyed four tanks and three military vehicles.

In Herat Province, the mujahidin in different operations near Zarghun District, killed 23 Kabul regime's troops, destroyed 2 posts, and damaged 2 tanks and 3 vehicles.

'Extremist Elements' 'Crushed' in Provinces

LD2111211888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The BIA, quoting authoritative sources of the Afghan Armed Forces, has reported that the Armed Forces have taken a number of measures over the past 24 hours for the stabilization of the situation and the restoration of peace in the country.

For instance, a number of the extremist elements have been crushed in order to clear the area of (Samarkhil) in Nangarhar Province of the warmonger elements and to ensure a peaceful life for the residents of the area. The Armed Forces have captured 3 light arms, 10 boxes of various brands of ammunition, and 103 mortar and rocket launcher shells.

Similarly one set of reactif missiles, three recoilless guns, one mortar, and seven enemy positions were destroyed and one arms depot was set on fire.

The extremist elements, who disrupted the peaceful life of the residents in Qandahar Province were also crushed in the areas of (Kotal-e Baba) and Fakteh Pol, and 30 light arms and 1,340 cannon and mortar shells, which were placed in the areas to commit terrorist acts, have been captured by the Armed Forces of the country.

The Armed Forces, with direct cooperation of the local people, have destroyed extremist strongholds in the provinces of Samangan, Jawzjan, and Paktia.

As a result, dozens of armed extremists and their ringleaders were either crushed or wounded and a quantity of their arms and ammunition captured. In the operation, carried out to ensure peace, one arms depot and five heavy weapons of the warmonger extremists were destroyed.

124th Note on 'Violations' Given to UNGOMAP

LD2011082488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 19, BAKHTAR—The one hundred twenty fourth note of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of Geneva agreements was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistaqn and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

The note contains all-sided information on eight instances of flagrant violations by Pakistan of Geneva agreements especially sending of caravans of arms and ammunition from Pakistan to extremist groups inside the Republic of Afghanistan.

The note asks UNGOMAP to investigate the Pakistani violations and convey its findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general immediately.

Notes 125, 126 Submitted

LD2211094688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 21, BAKHTAR—125th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the Geneva Accords was submitted today to UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP.

The notice stipulates that Pakistan has put at the disposal of Afghan extremist elements long-range rockets after the enforcement of Geneva Accords in gross violation of the latter's provisions causing thousands of deaths and injury.

The report adds that the 126th notice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the crashing of a passenger plane of the Republic of Afghanistan by the Armed Forces of Pakistan was also submitted by UNGOMAP.

The notice asked the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and convey the findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and UN secretary general representative.

Najibullah Thanks Gorbachev for Message

LD2111232588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA, has wired a message of thanks to Moscow in response to a telegram from M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of CPSU and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, sent from his aircraft while flying over the Republic of Afghanistan.

I express my deep gratitude and that of the people of the Republic of Afghanistan for your warm message and good wishes while you were flying over Afghanistan while en route home.

The Republic of Afghanistan spares no effort toward implementing its national reconciliation policy and ensuring lasting peace in the country and is confident this righteous demand of the people of Afghanistan will be met.

I take this opportunity to express my most cordial wishes for your health, dear comrade, for the ever-increasing successes of the people and Government of the Soviet Union, for the implementation of reconstruction in your country, and for the stabilization of world peace and security.

BAKHTAR Criticizes Reagan Talks With Rabbani
LD2111094988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 20, BAKHTAR—In an informative pamphlet released at the conclusion of the meeting of Ronald Reagan, President of the republic, with Burhanuddin Rabbani [leader of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan], and which has been disseminated by the United States Embassy in Kabul, the United States has once again expressed its support to the Afghan armed extremists for the constitution of war and blooshed in gross violation of the provisions of Geneva agreements and the accepted international principles.

The renewal of the United States commitments to their Pakistani friends and to the Afghan armed extremists is another striving towards the continuation of tension in the region.

The sinister aims of these circles can not be concealed behind the so-called humanistic policy.

Now, it is clear that the United States and their allies are seeking regional tension and the strengthening of its military presence.

The six-month experience since the conclusion of Geneva agreements manifested that the United States and Pakistan have impudently ignored their commitments vis-a-vis the Geneva agreements and are continuing to finance and arm the extremist elements leading to the killing of thousands of innocent people and caused lots of casualties.

The gross violation by the United States and Pakistan of the Geneva agreements take place at a time when the Republic of Afghanistan is making every effort for the peaceful political solution of the situation around the country.

The continuation of the gross violation of Geneva agreements and the intensification of terrorist activities by the extremists urged the Republic of Afghanistan to equip its Armed Forces with more modern weapons.

This action was taken merely for defensive purposes and does not involve any menace to the neighbouring countries.

The Republic of Afghanistan call upon the signatories of Geneva agreements to refrain from the creation of obstacles vis-a-vis the peace process and to take advantage of the historical possibilities created here for the establishment of peace and the solution of the situation around the Republic of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Ershad Returns From Visits to U.S., France
BK2211020888 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Excerpt] President Ershad returned home this morning after his successful visit to the United States and France.

In New York he addressed a special UN session on assistance to Bangladesh in its efforts to solve the problem of recurring floods.

In response to his address, the world community came out with a $500 million aid commitment for post-flood reconstruction.

President Ershad also met President Reagan in Washington and discussed matters of wide-ranging interest. [passage omitted]

India

Gandhi Briefs Lower House on Gorbachev Visit
BK2111091988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The prime minister has apprised the Lok Sabha on the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to India. Mr Rajiv Gandhi laid on the table of the House various agreements and protocols signed by the two countries and the joint statement issued.

He said the visit was the reaffirmation of the high regard of the Soviet people for the values and ideas which India lives by. Appreciating the contribution made by the Soviet president to international politics, he said it has brought about a qualitative change in world environment.

About his talks with Mr Gorbachev, Mr Gandhi said there was agreement on key issues like disarmament and Afghanistan. The Soviet Union appreciated India's role in various forums.

Gandhi: PRC 'Unimportant' in Indo-Soviet Ties

BK2111122588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1207 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 21 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Monday that China was unimportant in the context of Indo-Soviet ties and that a solution to the Sino-Indian border issue could not be found on the lines of the Sino-Soviet frontier.

Making a statement in Parliament on the visit of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev which ended Sunday, Mr. Gandhi said there was no question of Moscow scaling down its ties with New Delhi because of upgrading relations with Beijing.

They were separate issues, he said, adding that as far as Indo-Soviet friendship was concerned, "China was unimportant."

"There is no question of one being at the cost of other or being tied with the other," he added. It was the first substantive comment on China by Mr. Gandhi, who is scheduled to visit Beijing next month, since Mr. Gorbachev Saturday called for improved relations between the three Asian giants—the Soviet Union, China and India.

Mr. Gandhi also ridiculed comparisons between the disputed Sino-Indian and Sino-Soviet borders. "The two situations are totally different and I don't think you can compare them," he told members in the Lok Sabha, or Lower House of Parliament.

Members wanted to know if the Soviet leader had asked Mr. Gandhi to follow Moscow's example in resolving the border differences with China and whether the Soviet Union's attitude towards India would change due to the China factor.

Mr. Gandhi said China figured in his discussions with Mr. Gorbachev, but the "Soviet-Chinese talks on the border were not discussed as such."

India and China fought a brief war in 1962 over their common border and eight rounds of official discussions since 1981 have not helped resolve their differences.

Mr. Gandhi next month is to become the first Indian prime minister to go to Bejing since his grandfather and first premier, Jawaharlal Nehru, went to China in October 1954. Mr. Gandhi also said that the 20-year August 1971 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between India and the Soviet Union would continue.

China claims 90,000 square kilometres (36,000 square miles) of Indian territory, while New Delhi says Beijing occupies some 38,000 square kilometres (15,200 square miles) of its land.

Indian analysts have voiced concern that a warming up of relations between the Soviet Union and China would leave non-communist India out in the cold with its main weapons supplier—Moscow—unwilling to help in case of a dispute with Beijing.

Mr. Gandhi's comments came a day after a high-level team led by Indian Foreign Secretary K.P.S. Menon left here for Beijing to finalise preparations for the prime minister's planned trip. The delegation will spend five days in China, before returning on Friday.

The other members of the group are Gopi Arora, information and broadcasting secretary; Ronen Sen, joint secretary in the prime minister's office; and Vijay Nambiar, joint secretary of the External Affairs Ministry in charge of China.

No final dates have been announced for Mr. Gandhi's China trip and officials have said only that it will take place in the third week of December.

Gandhi Clarifies Remarks

BK2111130288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said in the Rajya Sabha today that Sino-Soviet and Sino-Indian relations are exclusive of each other and there is no question of one being at the cost of the other.

Replying to clarifications by members on a statement the prime minister made in the House on Mr Gorbachev's visit, Mr Gandhi said there was a discussion on China as part of exchanging views on international matters.

He clarified that India's border dispute with China was not discussed during his talks with the Soviet president.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister said that India and the Soviet Union have similar views and stand by the implementation of the Geneva accord. He said, according to unconfirmed reports, the involvement of Pakistan in supplying arms to the Afghan rebels has increased.

Mr Gandhi allayed apprehensions about the safety of the proposed nuclear power station to be built with Soviet assistance. He said all precautions have been taken and the plant will be as safe as any other nuclear power station.

[Delhi Domestic Service in English at 1530 GMT on 21 November adds: On the signing of a [nuclear] nonproliferation treaty, Mr Gandhi said there is no change in India's stand. The proposed plant is a part of our program to increase power generation and has nothing to do with nuclear program. (sentence as heard)]

Earlier, making a suo Marte statement [by one's own exertions] in both houses of parliament, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that the Soviet president, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, has extended strong support to our action plan to bring about a nuclear weapon-free and nonviolent world order.

Mr Gandhi said President Gorbachev's visit provided yet another opportunity to exchange views on regional and international issues.

The prime minister laid on the table of the two houses copies of various agreements and protocols signed by the two countries and the joint statement.

Tibetan Exiles Seek Support From Gorbachev

BK1811131088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1259 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 18 (AFP)—Tibetan exiles called Friday for support from visiting Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in their struggle for independence from Chinese rule.

"We appeal to Your Excellency to support the Tibetan people's non-violent struggle for the restoration of our rightful status in the comity of nations," the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies said in a statement delivered to Mr Gorbachev.

The appeal by the Tibetan parliament-in-exile, based in the mountainous town of Dharamsala in northern India, urged Mr Gorbachev to back a newly proposed plan for Tibet by the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

The assembly drew parallels between the plan, which called for Tibet to be made a zone of peace, and the Soviet leader's peace proposals for the Asia and Pacific region announced in 1986.

The appeal was presented to Mr Gorbachev through the Soviet Embassy here and followed expressions of concern by Tibetan exiles at moves by Moscow and New Delhi to consolidate relations with Beijing.

It was delivered after some 500 Tibetans carrying banners and placards hailing the Soviet leader rallied here to welcome Mr Gorbachev, who on Friday began a three-day official visit to India.

More than 100,000 Tibetans have found refuge in India, where the Dalai Lama has lived in exile after an abortive anti-Chinese uprising in 1959.

Friday's appeal asked Mr Gorbachev to "use your good offices and influence over the Chinese leadership to respect human rights and freedom of the Tibetan people and prevail upon the Chinese leaders to accept and implement the peace proposal in good faith."

The Dalai Lama in June proposed that China manage Tibetan foreign affairs and defence but grant full autonomy to the six million Tibetans in all other areas.

The plan apparently abandoned calls for independence for Tibet, which was invaded by China in 1950 and declared a Chinese autonomous region in 1965.

A first round of talks on the proposal is tentatively set for January in Geneva between Chinese officials and representatives of the Dalai Lama, who on Tuesday assured his followers not to fear a sell-out.

The Tibetan assembly said Friday Chinese policies on Tibet have "deviated from the Marxist-Leninist principle of self-determination, failed miserably and become a blot on socialism."

It said Tibet was being used as a Chinese military bastion, for production and testing of nuclear weapons and as a dumping ground for nuclear wastes.

With 7.5 million Chinese settled in Tibet, "Tibetan people face the danger of complete elimination," it said.

The assembly said Tibet's neighbours "have witnessed the tragic events befallen us and remained silent," adding that recent anti-Chinese demonstrations in Tibet were an expression of the Tibetans' "will and determination to be free from Chinese rule."

Reportage on Continuing Violence in Punjab

9 Villagers Killed, 5 Injured

BK2011034288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down nine persons and injured another five in a village in Gurdaspur District last night. According to an official spokesman, three scooter-borne terrorists came to the village Sunderchak under Pathankot Sadar Police Station and opened indiscriminate fire.

While six persons died on the spot, three succumbed to their injuries later. Reinforcements of police and security forces were immediately rushed to the spot. They have since started a massive manhunt for the culprits in the area.

5 'Terrorists' Killed

BK2011111288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, five terrorists have been shot dead in an encounter with security forces at village Jhugian in Amritsar District this morning. According to the Punjab Director General of Police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, a joint raiding party of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and Punjab police raided a terrorist hideout on definite information.

In the encounter that followed, five terrorists were killed, including one hardcore terrorist, Bakshish Singh of Navanpind.

'Terrorists' Kill 4

BK2111091588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down four persons in Kamalawala village in Ferozepore District early this morning. According to the police, the terrorists fired from Chinese AK-47 assault rifles while the victims were asleep. Details are awaited.

Meanwhile, the security forces have arrested a hard-core terrorist, Dr Joginder Singh alias Mini Baba, following an encounter near Ferozepore last night.

According to the state police chief, Mr K.P.S. Gill, two of his accomplices however managed to escape. A Chinese assault rifle and 50 cartridges were recovered from his possession. He was involved in the killing of 10 persons near Ferozepore last month.

The center has given arms and ammunition to the Haryana government to fight the terrorist menace in the state. This was disclosed in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today. The center is considering the recommendation of the Ninth Finance Commission to provide funds to check terrorism and strengthen police arrangements in Haryana.

'Terrorists,' 'Harborers' Arrested

BK1811161588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, 15 terrorists and their harborers have been arrested during raids at various places since yesterday. A large number of arms and ammunition were recovered from their possession.

A farmer was shot dead by a terrorist in Pakoki village in Amritsar District last night.

Pakistan-Trained Subversives Arrested in Kashmir

BK2111092988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that 80 persons engaged in subversive activities in Jammu and Kashmir have been arrested. In a written reply, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, said investigations have indicated that these persons had the training in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and other areas of Pakistan.

It has been revealed that the design for the training was to create disorder and destabilization in the state.

Iran

Two Turkish Diplomats 'Asked To Leave'

LD2211072588 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Two Turkish diplomats from the Turkish Embassy here have been reportedly asked to leave Iran within three days.

A 'reliable source' at the Foreign Ministry told the English language morning daily TEHRAN TIMES that the action had been taken "in retaliation for the attitude of the Turkish Government."

The source told the paper that the Ankara government had earlier expelled two Iranian diplomats and held an Iranian couple along with their baby. He apparently did not provide further details on the incidents.

"Iran had to retaliate the action," the source was quoted by TEHRAN TIMES as saying.

IRNA Reviews Iraqi, UK Diplomatic Expulsions

LD1811103588 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] London, Nov. 18, IRNA—The Foreign Office confirmed Friday that last month it had expelled three members of the Iraqi Embassy in London, prevented a fourth diplomat from returning to the U.K. and that in return three British staff had been ordered to leave Baghdad.

No reason was offered for the belated announcement other than it was not in Britain's best interests to allow the expulsions to be known, but this comes at a time when the U.K. is sensitive about its relations with Iraq, having restored full ties with Iran.

Assistant press councillor 'Abd al-Husayn Jbarah, third secretary Ghassan Muhammad Shakir and bodyguard and driver for the Iraqi ambassador, Samir Karim Husayn Madhji [name as published], were ordered out of London on October 18 for "activities incompatible with their status."

The term is a usual Foreign Office euphemism for "spying" but according to the B.B.C., the move seemed more connected with Iraqi surveillance of its Muslim exiles in Britain who had been driven out of their country by Saddam Husayn.

Earlier this year an Iraqi death squad administered poison to an agent for the Ba'thist regime in London who was reported to have wanted to defect.

Britain's anti-terrorist squad later said that they were seeking the assassins in Baghdad, where they had returned.

At the same time the Iraqi Ambassador Muhammad al-Mashshat was issued with a warning from the foreign Office to comply with British law following reports that some of his diplomats could be using arms.

The Foreign Office said that the Iraqi staff had now left Britain and that it had also stopped assistant cultural counsellor Daham Mahmud 'Ali, who had been in Iraq, from returning to London.

The three expelled British diplomats were named as second secretary Charles Hollis, visa administrator Simon Elvy and security officer John Barton.

No camparable expulsion are thought to have occurred between Britain and Iraq for many years, although the Foreign Office says that it has more than once let the Iraqi embassy know that it has been concerned about its activities.

The London INDEPENDENT, who broke the story, believed that the expulsions were linked with Britain's attempts to improve relations with Iran, where in doing so, it has been trying to show a more neutral policy in the Persian Gulf from its previous support for Iraq in its war against Iran.

The paper suggested that it was even Tehran that informed the British Government about some of Iraq's activities in the U.K. and that the decision to expel diplomats had followed a programme of "target surveillance" by British security officers.

The expulsions are however not expected to further sour relations between the two countries and the Foreign Office said that as far as it was concerned the matter was closed.

In addition, earlier this month Britain proceeded to double its credit line with Iraq.

The reductions leave 18 British diplomats in Baghdad and some 50 Iraqi staff in London, about half with diplomatic status.

Unlike Iran, Britain has not insisted upon strict reciprocity in representation.

Besharati Comments on Persian Gulf Relations

NC1911100088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0619 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Mohammad Besharati by unidentified correspondent in the "Voice of the Front" program in its studio—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Our guest this week is our dear brother Mr Besharati, deputy foreign minister. We thank him for giving some of his time to the Voice of the Front.

Our first question is on the Islamic Republic's foreign policy after the acceptance of Resolution No 598. Has any change taken place in our foreign policy on establishing relations with various countries?

[Besharati] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful, I extend my warm greetings to all the combatant brothers and hope that God Almighty will grant us the opportunity to share in the pious acts of the combatants of Islam.

Since the acceptance of the resolution, no change has taken place in our foreign policy. The resolution is on a peaceful termination of the war. This resolution was approved a year ago, and we accepted it in August this year.

However, since our military presence on the fronts and our war with Iraq's Ba'thist regime naturally created a series of limitations for us, we felt a range of imbalances in some parts of the foreign policy.

In other words, we felt that when a country helped Iraq and supported it fully, we could not expand our relations with that country. We then had to adjust our relations with it accordingly.

After the acceptance of the resolution and establishment of the cease-fire, these limitations have now been removed. Naturally we can enter into negotiations more easily with countries that approach us from the door of friendship, conform to our principles, and strive to establish political, economic, and commercial relations.

In short, nothing has changed in our foreign policy.

[Correspondent] Mr Besharati, you recently visited a number of regional countries and Persian Gulf littoral states. Basically, what is our policy on regional countries and, especially, the Islamic countries?

What importance do we attach to the creation of some kind of organization in the region?

[Besharati] Since the victory of the Islamic Republic, we have always announced that we grant priority in our foreign policy to Islamic countries, followed by neighboring countries, Third World countries, nonaligned nations, and then others.

Naturally we should expand our relations with all neighboring countries, especially with the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf. You know that according to paragraph eight of Resolution 598, which propounds the issue of security in the Persian Gulf and of general security in the region, we have always announced that security in the Persian Gulf should be established by regional countries.

Naturally, only then can we call for the unconditional withdrawal of foreign powers from the region. If we expand our relations with our neighboring Arab countries, the superpowers will not have any pretext for their military presence, especially since we have long-lasting, historic, and good relations with our Arab friends in the region.

In addition to being neighbors, they are Islamic countries. A large number of Iranians—about 137,000-140,000—live there. They went there when these countries were created. They have offered valuable services to these countries.

These countries are members of the ICO. They have rich reserves in the region, and most of them are OPEC members—like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE.

Therefore, we can work with them in OPEC, too. If we create more coordination in each dimension I have mentioned, and especially in the last dimension of OPEC, then we can definitely defend the price of oil so that we will avoid the disagreeable and unpleasant situation that exists today in prices and production of OPEC oil.

This way, the Western industrial countries will not exploit this disheveled market.

In short, we do not see any obstacle blocking expansion of relations with the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf.

I have visited regional countries on many occasions. I have held long, friendly and sincere meetings with the heads of these states. This visit was of great importance in some aspects because we went to these countries with the message of the respected president and, after the acceptance of the resolution, we stated our country's readiness in all aspects to expand relations with them.

They too are ready in all aspects. The main obstacle preventing the expansion of relations was the war. The war has now ended, and both they and we are ready.

During my visit there, on the same day that I was in the UAE, the UAE Cabinet approved their ambassador in Washington's being appointed as ambassador to Tehran.

Two other countries, which I will not name now, have introduced their ambassadors. Other countries are to appoint ambassadors soon, too. We also are ready to send ambassadors to all the countries. Some of them have already been sent.

After my return, in my meetings with the respectable heads of the three branches [executive, legislative, and judicial], all of them emphasized that relations with regional Arab countries should expand.

Fortunately, this readiness clearly exists in all aspects in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in the regional Arab countries.

[Correspondent] Mr Besharati, during the 8 years of the sacred defense, we witnessed some regional countries extend support to the Iraqi regime. What is our reaction and stand toward these countries?

[Besharati] Your question is extremely important. Possibly many are waiting for the Islamic Republic of Iran to take its revenge and punish them now that the opportunity has arisen. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never been of this opinion.

We look toward a bright future. We have stated that we have opened a new page in our relations with these countries. Let bygones be bygones. The bright horizon of future relations is more important for us than the negative past.

In short, as the Holy Koran says: Bygones are bygones. We should think of the future.

[Correspondent] God willing. What is the Islamic Republic's policy toward Saudi Arabia following our acceptance of Resolution No 598.

[Besharati] I believe that an all-encompassing change has clearly emerged in the entire region following the acceptance of the resolution. With regard to the establishment of regional security, we always have said that the regional countries should cooperate, and, primarily, the Saudis. They, too, are a regional country.

Therefore, the Saudis can cooperate with us in establishing security. They can cooperate with us within the framework of OPEC. They also are a member of the Islamic Conference Organization, which is another forum for cooperation. At any rate, everything can change except the neighborhood. They are our neighbors.

Our holy shrines are there. Our Kabah is there. The prophet is buried in Saudi Arabia. Can we ignore it? The severence of political relations is one thing, but the severence of those things that link us with our holy shrines in Arabia is another.

On the other hand, we do have a difference with the Saudis. They killed 400 Iranians during last year's Hajj pilgrimage. They should definitely make up for this. However, we are prepared to discuss the issue of the Hajj at any place and at any time.

We are prepared to sit down, talk, and overcome the great misunderstanding that has been created between us. They were the ones who accused the demonstrators of wanting to start fires, create insecurity, and destroy the Kabah.

These, obviously, were satanic inspirations. Our people do not consider anything to be more holy than the Kabah. The respect that we attach to the Kabah—and I do not want to say that other nations do not attach this respect—is the most important of our beliefs.

We took more care than any other nation with regard to the regular dispatch of convoys to the pilgrimage. At the airports our pilgrims were subjected to searches which lasted hours to determine whether or not they were carrying things deemed illegal in Saudi Arabia. We accepted these practices and exerted such efforts in an attempt to preseve our relations with the Saudis.

Now that the necessary grounds have been prepared, and in view of all these, God willing, we are ready—in view of the readiness that has been exhibited in Saudi Arabia and on the basis of recommendations that have been exchanged—to resume direct talks with them and to take serious steps to overcome the conflict between the two countries, which has only been exploited by the enemies.

[Correspondent] God willing. Mr Besharati, the third round of Geneva talks ended recently without any good or logical outcome. My next question is: How do you foresee the future of the peace talks and what measures have we thought of to remove the obstacles set up by the Iraqi regime?

[Besharati] If we had not accepted the resolution, the world would not know the attitude of the Iraqi regime. Our acceptance of the resolution resulted in the Iraqi regime's impudence. It attacked our borders. When its offensive was crushed, it belatedly accepted the cease-fire.

Following the cease-fire, the Iraqi forces that continue to occupy part of our Islamic homeland, should have returned to the international borders. During each of the three rounds of talks, the Iraqi delegation has propounded deviatory issues and has never accepted Article Two of the resolution.

The question that we and our people ask it: Since the approval of the resolution, 1 year ago, there have been those who have continuously stated that that resolution offers the best solution for ending the war. Why are those same quarters not now carrying out their ethical duty?

Our nation has learned to rely on itself and on God Almighty. But I believe that such remarks and pretexts will not last long. The various political pressures that are being inflicted on the Iraqi regime from all sides will force it to retreat, just as it has retreated from its stands on many other things.

Of course, we acknowledge that, after an 8-year war, talks cannot yield results overnight. We believe that the talks will last a long time. However, the length of talks at the end of an 8-year war is one issue, and Iraq's intentional obstructionisms and its preconditions something else.

We are ready for the fourth round of the talks. We are preparing ourselves. However, the world and our neighbors should consider their responsibility.

The Security Council members should realize that that country—the Iraqi regime—which continuously paid lip service to peace, was only voicing chimerical slogans.

[Correspondent] But in order to put this period of neither war nor peace behind us, what policies should we adopt? In your opinion, which side benefits from this period of neither war nor peace?

[Besharati] Of course, this is a dangerous phase and should not be protracted. Part of our territory is under the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's occupation. Our combatants should continue to be alert and ready.

Our youths should maintain their aspirations and, relying on divine pwoer, should be alert and have an active and spectacular presence on the fronts so that if, God forbid, the Iraqi regime makes an aggressive move on our territorial integrity, they can then give it a crushing answer.

But also, the Iraqi regime is not currently in a situation to take a wrong step in this. However, we consider it our duty to be ready and alert. Our people too should live through this juncture. Of course, God willing, we will pass through this period.

The situation will improve and change and the disorders, part of which stem from the special conditions of war, will be removed, God willing. The situation will improve. Our country's potential is extremely high. Our population is 60-million strong.

Our strategic situation is unique in the region. Our foreign exchange reserves... [Besharati changes thought] our reserves are many. If we find the opportunity to tap only part of these reserves, our shortages and problems will be removed.

Our nation—our proud nation—has very bravely foiled all the enemies' plots, has remained strong as a mountain despite problems, and has defended his holiness the imam. This nation should continue to be present on the scene. It should not be fooled by enemies.

Shortages are something natural. Certainly these shortages are artificial because they were during a time of war with many limitations. There were limitations. Of course, from now on these limitations will be gradually removed.

After the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from the fronts, our dear prisoners will definitely be released and will return to the Islamic homeland and to the warm bosom of their families and of the people. The people should attach great respect to them and welcome them as if fitting.

After the talks end, and peace is created, and we are carefully and scrupulously watching that no flexibility in any part of the talks be shown, as our combatants did not have on the military fronts. [sentence as heard] We will not be flexible in this.

I am more hopeful of the future than I was in the past. We should use our potential to build a country which will be an example among the Islamic countries, God willing. We do have this potential, and the capability and conditions.

We have bright, proud, and intellectual people. We have active youth. More important, we have a strong Islamic ideology which shows us the way out of bottlenecks. But we also need patience befitting an Islamic system which was the target of aggression.

The majority of our people have this patience. Those who do not should acquire this patience. I am more hopeful than in the past that, God willing, problems will be gradually removed. May God bless the dear combatants who are steadfastly defending the values of the Islamic homeland.

In conclusion, I would like to say that God Almighty has said: I am proud of them. Dear combatants, you are definitely among those of whom God is proud because of the godly acts that you have carried out on the orders of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, the imam of the ummah, the great leader of the Islamic revolution.

May God bless you and justice preserve you.

[Correspondent] At the end of this program, I too would like to thank you for your presence here and to bid each and every dear and heroic combatant farewell.

On Relations With Saudi Arabia

LD2111130688 Tehran IRNA in English 1239 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Saudi Arabia should take further measures to prepare the grounds for improving ties which were broken off after the hajj massacre last year, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

"If the Saudi regime takes further positive steps, Iran is ready to enter direct negotiations with that regime," said First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

He said Pakistan and some Persian Gulf states, which he did not name, have been mediating between Tehran and Riyadh as the two refrained from diplomatic contacts since the Mecca tragedy that left more than 400 pilgrims, most of them Iranians, martyred.

In an interview with the English-language TEHRAN TIMES, Besharati said Saudi Arabia initiated the cut in diplomatic ties therefore it should "take the first step in the way of a smooth flow of reciprocal relations."

The official was quoted as saying that in response to King Fahd's order stopping propaganda against the Islamic Republic, Iran had also halted attacks against Saudi Arabia. He did not elaborate.

In an editorial, the TEHRAN TIMES said the two countries should end their conflict for the sake of regional cooperation, OPEC unity and slowing down the regional arms race.

It pointed out that many observers and sympathizers of the Islamic revolution may be asking why Iran is considering to mend relations with Riyadh after the latter's open support to cripple the Islamic revolution from the very beginning.

"Disturbances in the two countries' relations have immediately been reflected in OPEC and as such have undermined its clout to take challenges hurled at it and meant to weaken it. This necessity dictates a policy which will have to seek a betterment of ties with Saudi Arabia," it said.

18 Montazeri Supporters Allegedly Executed

AU2211082588 Paris AFP in English 0734 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Report by Eliane Merel]

[Text] Paris, Nov 22 (AFP)—Eighteen people, mostly supporters of the designated successor of Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, were executed last week in Iran, Iranian sources said here.

The sources said about 200 people were arrested last week in a clampdown on supporters of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri which was launched last month after he wrote a letter to Iranian leaders painting a bleak picture of the political and economic situation in Iran.

Among those said to have been executed were eight clerics, including Hojjat ol-Eslam Fathollah Ummid Nadjafabadi, a close aide to Ayatollah Montazeri and former member of parliament.

Two other former parliamentarians and two former leaders of the Revolutionary Guards in the central city of Isfahan were also reported to have been executed.

The executions were seen as a further consolidation of the power of Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the influential speaker of the Iranian parliament and viewed by many as the rising star in the Iranian leadership.

Ayatollah Montazeri's supporters had apparently ignored a decision by Iranian leaders to keep the letter secret and had distributed the text in Iran and abroad, prompting accusations that they were trying to sow confusion and create divisions among the powerful Muslim clergy, the sources said.

In his letter, Ayatollah Montazeri blamed the authorities for what he called a total lack of freedom in Iran, saying the revolutionary courts and the Information Ministry were particularly at fault.

He said the Iranian leadership had brought the country to the brink of economic ruin, stressing plunging living standards. He argued that postwar reconstruction would be impossible without a mass return of highly qualified Iranians living abroad.

He called for a "general amnesty" to allow the exiles to return and called on "incompetent" ministers and officials to resign.

In a previous message published by the official Iranian media on October 11 and coinciding with a roundup of many of his supporters, Ayatollah Montazeri called for freedom of expression and said he would accept no position of responsibility in Iran.

The ayatollah was named in 1985 as the future successor to the 88-year-old Ayatollah Khomeyni as spiritual guide of the Islamic revolution, and although he has wielded considerable influence, especially among clerics, he holds no political post.

Iranian exiles here said the arrest and execution of Ayatollah Montazeri's supporters reflected a growing crisis in the Iranian leadership.

Opposition sources have reported a wave of executions of political prisoners since the August cease-fire with Iraq.

The People's Mojahedin, the main armed Iranian opposition group, based in Baghdad, has reported that several hundred political detainees, and an unspecified number of clerics, have been executed in recent weeks.

Known Montazeri backers have been rounded up and executed before, notably Mehdi Hashemi, the brother of the ayatollah's son-in-law and former head of the World Islamic Organization, a body under the control of Revolutionary Guards whose mission was to export the Islamic revolution.

Mr. Hashemi's supporters were also believed to have leaked details of the visit to Teheran in May 1986 by U.S. officials involved in secret "arms-for-hostages" deals with the Iranian regime to the Beirut newspaper AL-SHIRA'.

Iranian radio said a group of leading clerics had met Ayatollah Montazeri on Thursday to discuss "certain difficulties," but did not elaborate on their nature or importance.

Polish Delegation Arrives in Tehran 21 Nov

LD2111175488 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Poland's first deputy foreign minister arrived here Monday at the head of a political delegation for a three-day visit.

Mr. Jan Majewski is carrying a message for Premier Hoseyn Musavi from his Polish counterpart Mieczyslaw Rakowski and will confer with Iran officials on issues of mutual interest.

The Polish delegation was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by Foreign Ministry Deputy for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani.

RESALAT Condemns Government Corruption

NC1811123488 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Part I of editorial: "Mr Prime Minister"]

[Text] Mr Prime Minister: In your remarks to the Khorasan Province Administrative Council you referred to various post-war issues, including the need for a decisive approach to those who violate the rules in the executive system and in the country's other bodies.

You said: "Thus far, the lack of the necessary authority has been the main obstacle facing the government. Moreover, we have not had laws strong enough to deal with corruption, bribery, and other issues that we will review in time."

The first question that comes to the reader's mind is: Was there no need for a decisive confrontation with those violators during the war? If so, then it does not conform to any logic, because basically the intention behind forming a government and imposing all these heavy expenditures on a nation is to be able to choose the most suitable and capable persons to run the affairs of society.

In this way, by issuing the necessary measures and laws, injustice against the people's rights is prevented and society is pushed toward growth and perfection.

Otherwise, why would people curb their liberties and take on heavy expenditures to form governments whose officials are paid but who do nothing for the people?

One of the most important duties of officials and leaders is to carefully oversee and inspect civil employees and employers, as the goals of a government system should be achieved by the employers of that government system.

In the Islamic system those in charge of the people's affairs are known as "officials in charge" and an official in charge is the person who is taken to task and must accouant fully for what has or has not been done. The person in charge of the affairs of Muslims is not a mere rank or title.

Therefore, it is definitely not true that the need to inspect employers and adopt a decisive approach toward violators did not exist during the war; indeed, more decisive approaches are needed during a war.

The intention of those who devotedly sacrificed their being for the continuation of the Islamic Republic and of those who sacrificed the apple of their eye for the preservation of Islam was that the rule of Islamic values be established and that society be reformed.

Therefore, the absence of control during the time of war, the fact that government machinery is contaminated with corruption because of the lack of inspection, and the fact that some employers plunder the wealth of the people and the state are all violations of the nation's goals and the rule of Islamic values.

Imam 'Ali, peace be on him. told Malek Ashtar: Study the activities of employees and agents and see how they behave toward the people. Appoint truthful people to inspect their activities and to report to you. In other words, do not let them do what they want to do on their own.

It is well known that each ministry has a vast machinery known as the General Department for Supervision and Evaluation.

Each year hundreds of millions of rials of the Muslims' national wealth is spent for the inspection of organizations and ministries; namely, for the State Inspection Organization, the auditing organizations, the administrative courts, the accounts department, and many other such bodies that have all been formed in order to study and evaluate the activities of the government.

Why were violations not dealt with during the war and why have violators not been dealt with decisively, so that the extent of wrongdoings would not increase?

Absolutely nothing stopped us from taking a decisive stand against violators.

However, numerous elements have led to the further impudence of the violators and to the deviation of other persons as well. These elements are:

1. The absence of correct supervision and inspection over the activities of employers and officials;
2. The appointment of weak directors and officials;
3. The absence of the important elements of encouragement and punishment; and
4. The absence of a decisive approach to violators of the public's rights.

The second part of the prime minister's remarks says: "So far, the lack of the necessary authority has been the main obstacle facing the government. We have not had strong laws to deal with corruption, bribery..." These remarks consist of two points:

a. The lack of authority, and

b. The absence of strong laws.

We will discuss each of these separately.

The lack of authority. What is meant by the lack of the necessary authority that has been the main obstacle facing the government so far? What kind of authority should be given to the government?

Who should grant this authority to the government? In our system there are two bodies that can grant authority to the government: the Majlis and the leaders.

As a rule, whenever the government needs authorization in order to carry out its duties better and to inspect more correctly the government machinery, it should present this to the Majlis for approval.

The prime minister knows that the Majlis' decisions would not violate canonical norms and the Constitution. He knows that on the basis of the Constitution, violations should be dealt with by the judiciary.

The question now is: When did he realize that the rules concerning supervision and inspection of the management had flaws, and that these flaws obstructed the government in its reforms?

Did the government prepare a bill to correct the flaws in the existing laws and to ensure its legal rights and send this bill to the Majlis for approval?

If the government has failed to do so, then what other competent legal authority is in charge of preparing a bill concerning the government's authority?

Do you accept the fact that on the basis of the Constitution, the government itself is in charge of ensuring its legal authority and the fact that logic too dictates this?

This is because the Majlis or the legislative body is unaware of the government's lack of legal authority and, even if they are informed, it is through the executive officials, and they have no legal right to prepare a bill only on this basis.

Assuming that the necessary legal authority for supervision, inspection, encouragement, and punishment does not exist, then the body in charge of preparing a bill on this is the government, headed by the prime minister.

It is not becoming of officials to generalize and shift the burden of responsibility from their shoulders. The way officials deal with issues and their behavior has an impact on society.

Moreover, during the past few years, each time the government has asked the imam for authority to preserve the interests of the system, the imam has exercised his authority as the supreme guardian and granted this request.

Therefore, if the Majlis did not grant you such authority, then you should have asked the imam for it.

Part II

NC1911123288 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Part II of editorial: "Mr Prime Minister"]

[Text] In our past issue, we referred to the prime minister's remarks and said that, assuming that the necessary legal authority for supervision, inspection, encouragement, and punishment do not exist, then the body in charge of compiling such a bill is the government headed by the prime minister.

We said that the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran should be examples of virtue, devotion, and sincerity for the Iranian nation and for Muslims throughout the world, who are zealously struggling toward the establishment of Islamic rule and who consider the acts by our officials and our people an example to follow.

We said that it is not right to generalize and to shrug off one's responsibilities. We also said that officials' approach to issues and their behavior have an impact. We now continue.

The imam of the ummah used to grant the government any authority it wanted until just before the acceptance of the cease-fire. The imam did so possibly because of the conditions of war or because it was deemed advisable.

When granting the right to carry out state punishments, the imam of the ummah entrusted the government with the authority to compile laws, to carry out judgments, and to enforce these laws.

Inform the people about what was done during this period so that they can become aware of how the government responded to the magnanimity of the lofty leader when he handed over responsibilities that were outside the sphere of activities of the executive branch.

Mr Prime Minister: You had a free hand in carrying out state punishments. What have you done with the criminal officials who were in charge of implementing state punishments?

How have you dealt with those officials who encroached upon the people's lives, properties, and respect? How have you dealt with those who used the power of state punishments as a means for financial exploitation and possibly as a means for settling personal or political accounts?

How many officials throughout the country have been handed over to the judiciary for punishment? How many such people have been fired? To what extent were the inspections on the activities of the officials in charge of enforcing the state punishments carried out?

You definitely know that no official can use excuses and claim to be unaware of what is going on in the organization he heads; these are poor excuses. One of the elements that leads to the success of each rule is the way in which it inspects the activities of its employees and knows how to behave toward the people and toward national wealth.

During the latter part of Shahriva [month beginning 23 August] this year, the imam of the ummah granted the Council for Discerning Interests the authority to make decisions concerning state punishments.

Those who cared for the government and the revolution informed the respectable members of this council about the incorrect approach of some officials to state punishments.

According to reports, the State Inspection Organization and the Ministry of Information each prepared separate and documented reports at the request of the Council for Discerning Interests.

As the head of the government and a member of that council, and after being informed about the regrettable reports, what decisive approach was adopted against the violators in defense of the people's rights and of the national wealth?

On the basis of Article 24 of the Majlis Elections Law, dated 1362 [year ending 20 March 1984], "the deputy governors and governors of election centers should following the conclusion of elections, immediately post the results of the elections to the Ministry of Interior for publication in the mass media and then throughout the relative constitutency."

After the mid-term elections at 16 polling centers on 29 October 1988, the results of 11 centers were announced on the radio by 0700 the next morning and published in the press for the people's information. The results of three centers were published some time later.

Even though it was announced that votes in Golpayegan and Gorgan had been counted by the morning of 30 October 1988, nevertheless the Ministry of Interior has not yet announced the results of these two remaining centers. What greater violation can the executive organ be responsible for?

One of the peoples' major slogans before the victory of the revolution was "independence, freedom, Islamic Republic."

You definitely accept the fact that without freedom there cannot be independence or an Islamic Republic, and that the face of the Islamic Republic is marred in the eyes of the world when the officials in charge of the country's security, who should be the guardians of security and law, are indifferent toward the people's rights.

When officials indecently break laws, how will the world judge us?

Media Leaders Say Greater Criticism 'Essential'
LD2111181488 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov 21 IRNA—The head of Iran's radio and television and the editor of the largest circulation daily newspaper believe greater criticism is essential for a healthy society.

In interviews with the weekly magazine SOROUSH, they accepted that neither organization had done enough in pointing at the country's shortcomings.

"My own assessment is that we havn't done our duty in reflecting criticisms to the extent that our mission requires," said Mohammad Hashemi head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

But quoting several articles in the IRIB's constitution, he indicated that the organization is determined to air national grievances and promote free expression.

He said during the war there were problems and obstacles facing programs with a critical angle. Though the war has not officially ended and the right conditions are not all there, "this shouldn't stop the IRIB from promoting the culture of accepting criticism."

Hashemi who has been managing director for nearly seven years blamed much of the problem on the unwillingness of officials to face criticism and opposing views.

There were often protests from officials who had been the subject of criticism in successful weekly television programs such as "Officials and the People" and "The Face of Our Economy" as well as the popular radio program "Hello, Good Morning."

SOROUSH, which is published by the IRIB, has devoted main articles to the subject of criticism in its last three issues, which include interviews with media officials.

In its latest issue, it carried an interview with Mahdi Nasiri editor-in-chief of the daily KEYHAN, the country's largest selling newspaper.

"In the present circumstances and considering the ceasefire in the war, criticism should have more prominence," said Nasiri who also complained that the press are not doing what they can in presenting weaknesses.

He said there should be no limit to criticism. Setting aside the position of the leader, all other individuals and officials can be subjected to criticism.

He added: "Even regarding the Vali Faghih (leader) there are other different theological, scientific and theoretical views. Of course, the conditions are that the opposing views are not mixed with (destructive) motives and political aims."

"Basically if a society is deprived of the blessing of criticism and critical encounters in social relationships and throughout the mass media, then it can be said that it is a society facing gradual death. The least result would be decline."

Logistic Warship Commissioned in 2d Naval Region
LD2011184488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the logistic warship 'Hendijan,' which was built by Iranian experts, was launched this morning at a ceremony. It joined the vessels of Bushehr 2d naval region.

In an interview with the Central News Unit, the commander of the 2d Naval Region said:

This logistic vessel has joined the other vessels at sea. It is ready to carry out its assigned missions providing support for naval operations in this region, according to Iranian Navy requirements.

It is capable of carrying out any kind of support operation, such as transporting personnel, ammunition, and provisions.

The commander added:

Iranian experts are currently constructing a number of similar vessels, whose launch we will witness in the future.

Navy To Stage War Games in Southern Waters

LD2011141188 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Iran's naval forces are to stage war games in the southern waters next month.

In a meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i today the naval commander explained the objective of the maneuvres in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan also outlined the Navy's progress towards self-sufficiency in various fields including reconnaissance and patrol missions.

Commentary on PLO's 'Political Retreat'

NC1911114088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit research group]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Tuesday, 15 November, was an historic day in the Palestinian revolution.

On that day the PNC held its third extraordinary session in Algeria and proclaimed the birth of an independent Palestine on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. [passage omitted]

Obviously, the formation of a government known as the Palestinian government is the initial desire of the revolutionary countries and organizations which, undoubtedly, will support such a government.

However, the problem arises from the fact that the Palestinian government which 'Arafat proclaimed at the PNC does not have specific borders. It certainly does not include all of Palestine or even a large part of it.

Even though many believe that the territories occupied in 1967 will be the Palestinian state in question, nevertheless the borders have not been clearly delineated.

This shows the extent of the pro-'Arafat faction's political reteat. [passage omitted]

A basic point that should not be ignored is the Muslim Palestinians uprising, which will soon mark its 1st anniversay. The Palestinian revolution has now moved from the phase of guerrilla operations to popular demonstrations and movements.

So far, this uprising has succeeded in inflicting many pressures on the Zionist regime and even on the entire world, as well as in attracting the world's attention more than ever before. The uprising of the Palestinian Muslims should continue.

However, the acceptance of Resolution No 242 can be an obstacle and limit its scope.

Opponents believe that the declaration of independence did not take place at a suitable time. They also believe that the acceptance of Resolution No 242 is a blow to the uprising, which will gradually change its character of a self-perpetuating popular movement into an isolated political phenomenon that will fluctuate according to political developments in the region and to the approach by the United States and Israel to the possible Palestinian government, and which may yield no results. [passage omitted]

The threat of a final compromise exists now more than ever before. This may lead to a general deviation in the revolution and in Palestinian resistance.

Nevertheless, some analysts believe that the recent PNC decisions may possibly intensify the demonstrations because the birth of the Palestinian government will further push the Palestinian Muslims toward resistance.

Moreover, because the Palestinian demonstrators are confronting the Zionists and are suffering from the continued occupation of their territory, they will be able to neutralize the impact of the PLO's retreats.

Nepal

Declaration of Palestinian State Welcomed

BK2211005488 Hong Kong AFP in English 2024 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 21 (AFP)—Nepal said Monday it saw the declaration of an independent Palestinian state as a positive development and hoped that it would lead to a durable solution of the Middle Eastern region's problems.

A Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman said in a written statement: "The Nepalese Government has consistently held the view that the Palestinian people should have a state of their own.

"We have also held the view that the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"We have always called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, and for the solution of the overall problems of the Middle East on the basis of the right of every state in the area to live in peace and within secured and recognized boundaries in accordance with U.N. Security Council 242 and 338 resolutions."

The statement was silent, however, on the question of recognition of the PLO government, Nepalese political observers here said.

Meanwhile, several banned political party leaders have urged speedy recognition of the PLO government, including former Prime Minister Tanka Prasad Acharya,

former Foreign Minister Dilli Raman Regmi, president of the banned Pro-Democratic Nepali Congress Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, former MP and left-wing leader Shambhu Ram Shrestha and human rights Prof Rishi Kesh Shah.

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan Congratulates Provincial Poll Winners

BK2111155188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The president has congratulated all the elected members from the four provincial assemblies. In his separate message to the members, the president said it is a matter of satisfaction that the people of your locality have expressed confidence in your leadership and have chosen you as their leader.

He said he has confidence that they will serve the nation with diligence and dedication and will tirelessly work for the well-being of the country.

Hopes for 'Smooth Transfer'

BK2111164588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] An informal meeting of federal ministers, including some of those who have submitted their resignation, was held at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [presidency] in Islamabad today.

The meeting, presided over by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, expressed satisfaction over the fact that general elections to the national and provincial assemblies were conducted in a fair, free, and impartial manner and in an environment of peace.

The president recalled that on assumption of office on the 17th of August this year, he had [word indistinct] for himself and the caretaker cabinet two major objectives.

The first: free, fair, and impartial elections under peaceful condition; and the second: smooth transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people.

He expressed satisfaction that the first objective had been fulfilled. He expressed hope that the second objective would, Inshallah [God willing], also be fulfilled after completion of the election process.

Justice Minister: National Assembly To Meet 5 Dec

BK2111163888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The first session of the newly elected National Assembly will be held in the Parliament House in Islamabad on Monday, the 5th of December, the justice and parliamentary affairs minister, Wasim Sajjad, said in a statement issued in Islamabad today.

He said the persons elected to the National Assembly in the general elections held on 16 November will be sworn in on 5 December and after that elections for the reserved seats for women will be held.

Giving details about the National Assembly schedule, the justice minister said that the election of the speaker and the deputy speaker will be held at the first formal session of the National Assembly on 7 December. Prior to the election of the speaker and the deputy speaker, the newly elected women members to the National Assembly will be sworn in.

The justice minister said the Election Commission will issue the notification of the final results of the elections by the 24th of this month. Notification for filing nominations of candidates for the election to the reserved seats for women will be issued on 26th of this month.

Nomination papers to the reserved seats for women will be received on 29 November whereas the nominations can be withdrawn until 30 November. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on 1 December and appeals against acceptance or rejection of the nomination papers can be submitted on 3 December.

Appeals will be disposed on the same day itself. Polling for the reserved seats of women will be held on 5 December and the results will be announced on 6 December.

The women members will be sworn in on 7 December.

On Nomination of Prime Minister

BK2211114788 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] The minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Wasim Sajjad, has said the president is determined to complete the process of transferring power to the next government as expeditiously as possible and there is no question whatsoever of delaying it.

He was commenting in Islamabad today on press reports alleging that nomination of the prime minister is being unnecessarily delayed. He said the president had himself categorically stated this at the informal Cabinet meeting yesterday.

Emphasizing that Pakistan is governed by the Constitution and not by personal whims of individuals, the law minister drew attention to the various constitutional and legal requirements which are yet to be completed.

He said the first among them is that the names of successful candidates have to be officially notified by the Election Commission which could only be done after counting postal ballot papers and with checking the results received from each constituency. Then election to seats reserved for women has also to be completed in the house to reach its full strength of 237 members.

This, the minister said, can only happen after the house has met and its members have taken oath. Mr Wasim Sajjad further said that following the elections to women seats, the first item before the house will be election of the speaker.

He said this is the order of the business provided in the Constitution. Obviously, being the firm believer in the Constitution, the president could not even think of short-circuiting the laid down procedure.

Talking about the nomination of the new prime minister, Mr Wasim Sajjad said the president has already started the process of consultations with the leaders of the major parties and groups to assess their real strength in the house.

He said the president has done so with a view to making up his mind about the person to be called upon to form a government immediately on completion of constitutional and legal requirements.

That being the case, no one should have any reason to allege or doubt that the process of formation of the new government is being delayed on any pretext or that the party having the clear mandate of the people will be denied the right to form a government, Mr Wasim Sajjad concluded.

IJI To Resist Woman Premier 'by Every Means'

BK2111132888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1317 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 21 (AFP)—The Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) Monday declared that it would resist by every means if a woman was named Pakistan's prime minister.

"We will resist by all available means, resorting to the courts and mobilising public opinion," said Agha Murtaza Poya, the IJI informtion secretary here.

Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has said that it is the constitutional obligation of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to invite her to form a government after the PPP emerged as the single party with the largest number of seats in the National Assembly following a general election Wednesday.

The IJI did not preclude the possibility of nationwide agitation to protest such a move, conservative leader Mr. Poya said.

The Constitution does not debar a woman from becoming premier but the IJI took a different view, Mr. Poya told a news conference, adding that Islam did not permit a woman as head of state.

A woman could become a cabinet minister or hold any other job but could not be the head of government, he said.

The PPP won 93 seats against 55 for the IJI but this was not enough to give Ms Bhutto's party an absolute majority in the 237-seat Parliament.

The IJI led by Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif has said it can claim an absolute majority with the support of independent MP's.

In Karachi, Ms Bhutto was meeting with Ataf Hussain, the leader of the Mohajir Quaumi Movement (MQM), which won 13 seats in Wednesday's elections.

The talks at Mr. Hussain's home had lasted for more than five hours and had reached a crucial stage, with Ms Bhutto summoning her lawyer to join her in Karachi, informed sources in the port city said.

It was the first meeting between leaders of the PPP and the two-year-old MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking Moslem refugees (Mohajirs) who fled to Pakistan from India after partition.

While Ms Bhutto's PPP wants MQM support to form a government, MQM leaders have warned that they would rather sit on the opposition benches than give up their main demands.

Benazir Bhutto Holds Talks With President 22 Nov

BK2211162188 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] According to a report just received, the cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, Ms Benazir Bhutto, is just now meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Immediately after this meeting, the president will be holding consultations with the leader of the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad], Mr Nawaz Sharif.

Press Predicts 'Tough Job' for New Leaders

BK1911022188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1722 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 18 (AFP)—The Pakistani press Friday welcomed results of legislative polls and predicted a tough job for leaders as no party could gain an absolute majority.

In general elections Wednesday, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), led by Benazir Bhutto, emerged as the leading single group with 92 seats out of 204 followed by nine-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) with 54.

It was the first general elections on a party-basis after 11 years of military rule under General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who died in a plane crash on August 17.

The PPP and the pro-Zia IJI were reportedly each making hectic efforts to muster support from the independent candidates to form a coalition government.

The local daily [THE] MUSLIM said in an editorial Friday entitled "Fall of the Titans" that "the rout of some of formidable political heavyweights on November 16 should underscore the glorious uncertainty of elections for those who have pretensions of leadership."

The independent daily FRONTIER POST called the results "a verdict in favour of the PPP" adding that the party be asked to form the government.

The Peshawar newspaper also viewed the PPP as comfortably placed to reach an understanding with Muhajir Quami Movement (MQM) which secured 13 of the 46 seats in Sind Province.

The newspaper also warned politicians to "curb their tendency for adventure at this critical juncture" and also advised the would-be opposition to "act as a true check, hitherto unknown in the Pakistani brand of politics."

Khamene'i Praises 'Orderly Conduct' of Elections

BK1911041788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Iranian President Ali Khamene'i has congratulated President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on the orderly conduct of elections in the country. He expressed happiness at the political foresight and wisdom demonstrated by the people of Pakistan.

In a letter to the president, Ali Khamene'i expressed hope the elections will bring about a better change for the Pakistani nation. He prayed for the success of the people and the Government of Pakistan.

President Replies to Gorbachev Message 21 Nov

BK2111025088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said Pakistan desires to further promote its friendly relations with the Soviet Union so that bilateral cooperation may benefit the people of the two countries.

The president made these observations in his reply to the message the Soviet leader, Gorbachev, sent to him while flying over Pakistani territory. In his message, the Soviet leader expressed a desire for friendly relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union for mutual benefit and for the cause of peace and stability in the region.

Ambassador To Moscow Meets With Defense Minister

BK2211022288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Pakistan's Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr Abdus Sattar, called on Defense Minister General Dimitriy Yazov in Moscow. They exchanged views on bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

'Strong Protest' Lodged on Kabul Shelling

BK2211024288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] It has been officially stated that an artillery shell fired by the Kabul regime's armed forces on 13 November fell at Landi Kotal near Khyber Agency killing one child and injuring two women. All were Pakistani nationals.

The same day another artillery shell fell on Kafir Kot village between Landi Kotal and Torkham killing three persons and injuring five others.

The Kabul regime's charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad and a strong protest was lodged with him on these unprovoked attacks.

He was asked to inform the Kabul authorities that they will be responsible for serious consequences if such attacks are not stopped.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Government has rejected the protests lodged by the Kabul authorities on 6 and 7 November which alleged that Pakistani aircraft had violated Afghanistan's airspace and Pakistani militia had carried out a subversive act in Nangarhar province.